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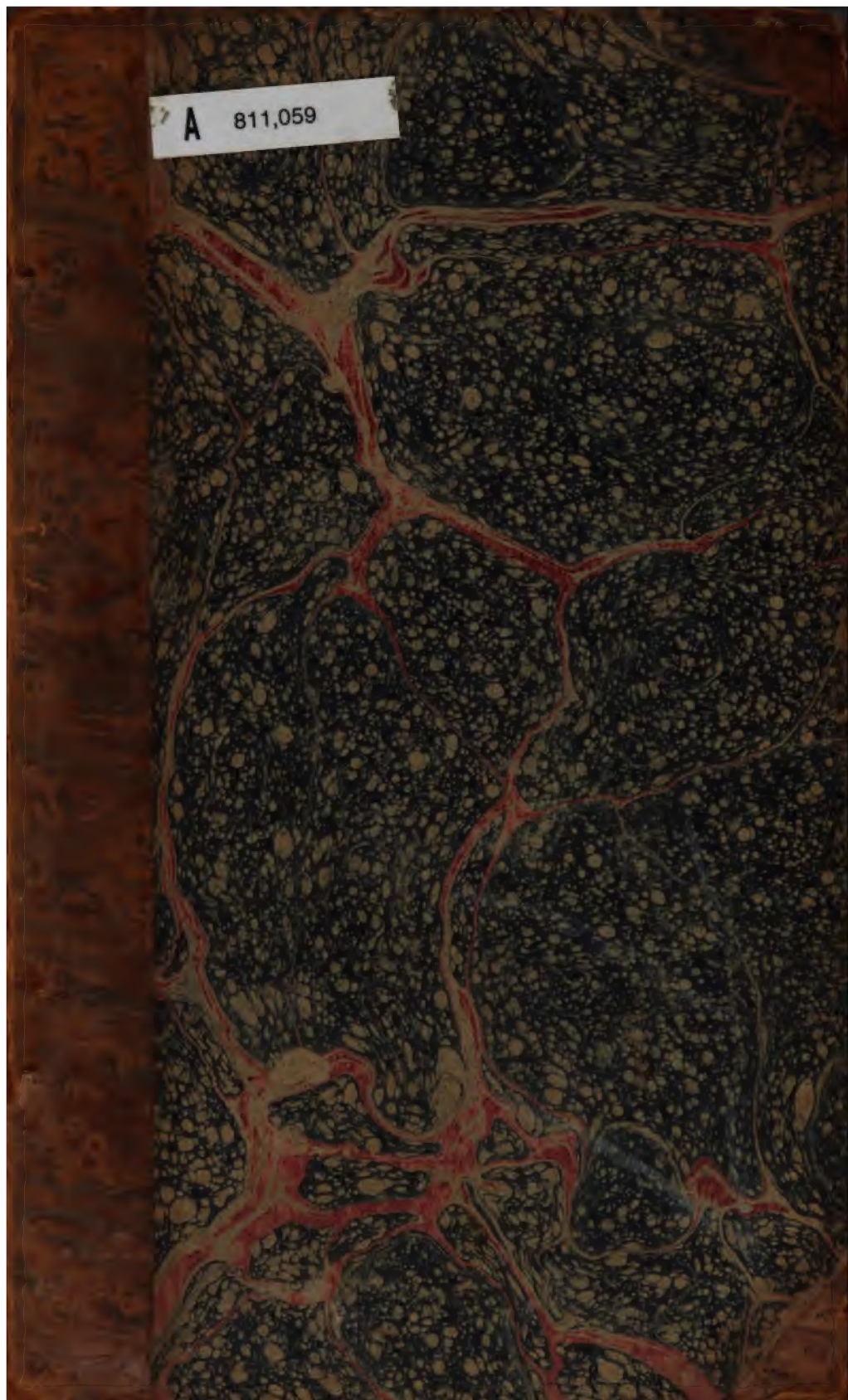
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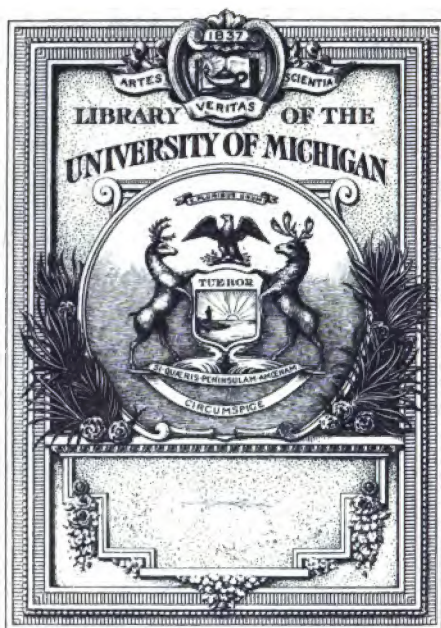
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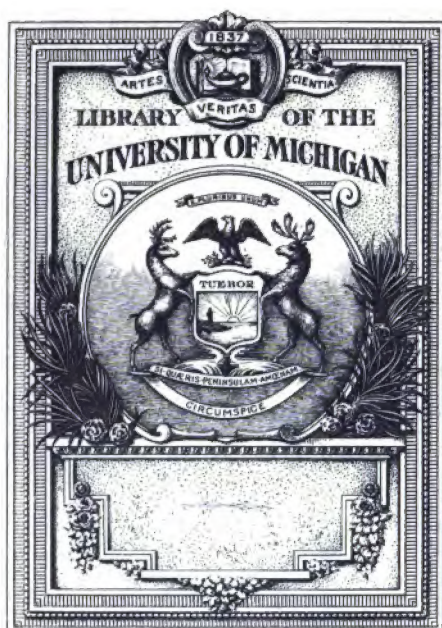
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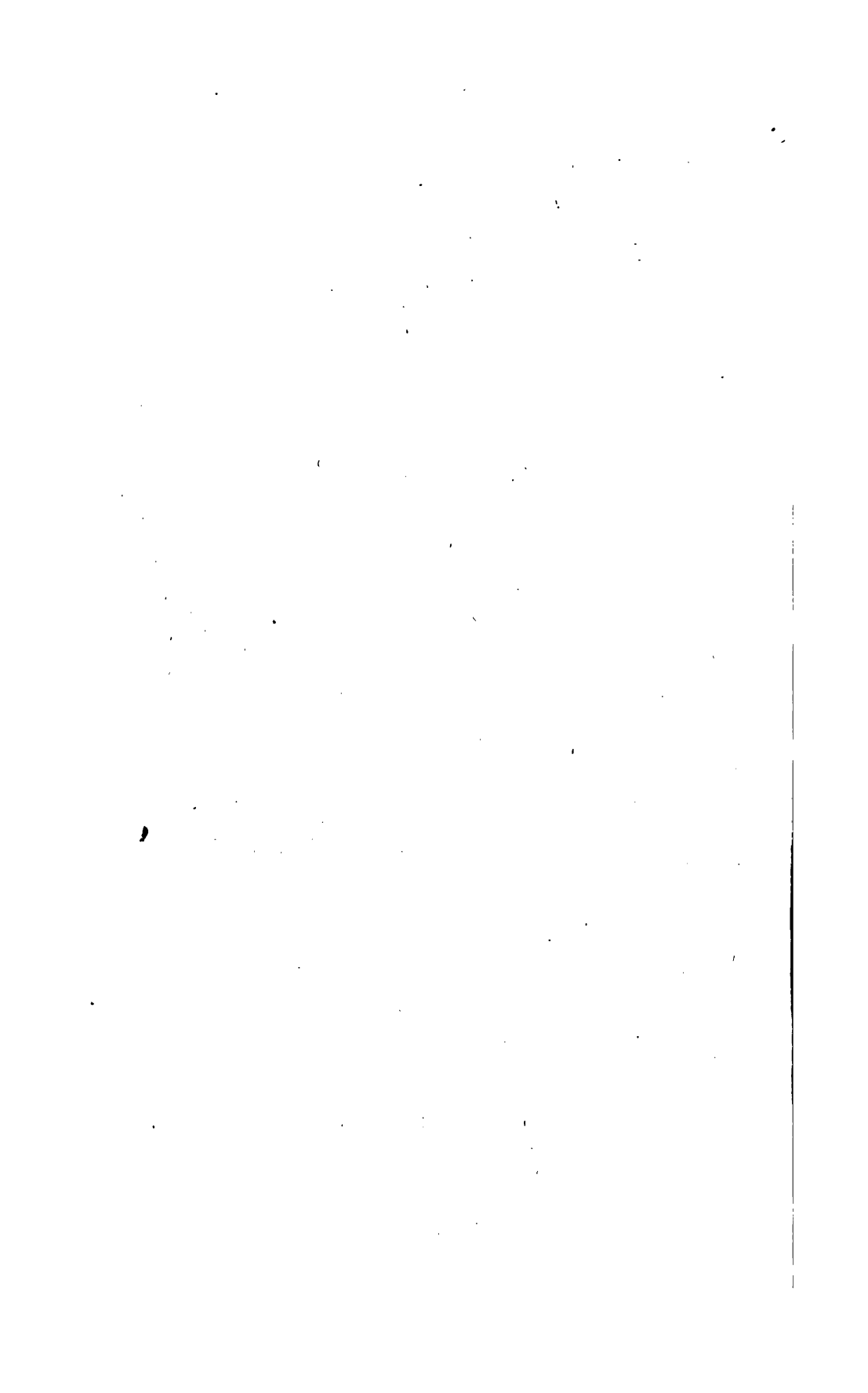




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PUBLIC CHARACTERS

OF

1800-1801.

“————— I wish no other herald,
“ No other speaker of my *living actions*,
“ To keep mine honour from corruption,
“ But such an honest chronicler.”—————

HEN. VIII. Act 4, Sc. 2.

“————— Hic nigræ succus loliginis; hæc est
“ Ærugo mera; quod vitium procul afore chartis,
“ Atque animo prius, ut si quid promittere de me
“ Possum aliud vere promitto.”

HORACE, Sat. i. 4. 100.

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P R E F A C E.

ENCOURAGEMENT is the nurse of every praise-worthy endeavour; and it frequently stimulates those on whom it is bestowed, to deserve, not only a continuance, but an increase of favour. We hope both these positions will be illustrated by the increased merit and success of this third volume of **CONTEMPORARY BIOGRAPHY**.

Impartiality, whether political, moral, or personal, is a feature upon which we rely as peculiarly characteristic of our undertaking. We have given fair and free scope to every man's feelings and opinions; and without opposing ourselves to any of them, have afforded a liberal space to all.

In respect to comparative claims to public indulgence, perhaps those of the present volume may be higher, as possessing some exclusive ad-

vantages. Many of the lives are of more importance, and most of them possess more general excellence in regard to composition. Two or three American characters will be found in the present volume, and others are promised us from the same pen, if these are honoured with the approbation of the public.

Indeed the utility and the principles of this new species of biography, are at present more diffused and understood. Voluntary contributions begin to pour in upon us ; and it has grown into a *patriot* emotion to raise, in this manner, literary statues to living genius and virtue.

Manifold are the advantages, we conceive, which society may derive from thus anticipating the trophies which have usually been appropriated to the tomb. To that final memorial we have usually been referred for the history of the persons whom Death has summoned ; but there, alas ! the brief biography has little else to shew the living world, except the *prescriptive* flatteries of a mourner or a friend : or if Truth enters into
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the detail, the hasty passenger reads, admires, and forgets her eulogy.

It is reserved for the contemporary biographer to engrave on the *mind* the virtues or the vices which moulder and become unheeded when confided only to the monument.

Those vices and virtues live, move, and have a being in the written page, which holds up the mirror of men to men. In a work of this kind, the wise and the good may be said to erect their own monuments, and to read the inscriptions of their honourable qualities, their talents, and their labours, on tablets more durable than marble; and on the other hand, the base may be taught the unworthiness of their characters, and ere yet too late may make atonement to the community they have injured, so as still to merit a redeemed reputation, and even an honourable place in the temple of Fame.

In every possible view, therefore, no asperity of criticism, nor any ill-founded complaints, we
may

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PUBLIC CHARACTERS

OF 1800-1801.

MR. MATTHEW BOULTON.

IF genius and indefatigable industry, directed by the purest patriotism, have any claim to the notice of our readers, an authentic account of this gentleman cannot but be highly acceptable to them. When we contemplate the enlarged extent of his views, the wide and rapid circulation of his improvements and discoveries in the most important branches of art, and the numerous and honourable connections which he has formed in every part of the civilized world, we shall be obliged to admit that few men possess greater claims to the attention and gratitude of their country.

Matthew Boulton, son of Matthew Boulton, by Christian, daughter of Mr. Peers, of Chester, was born at Birmingham, the 14th of September, 1728. He received the chief part of his education at a private grammar-school, kept by the Rev. Mr. Ansted, who officiated at St. John's Chapel, Deritend.

So early, we believe, as the year 1745, Mr. Boulton, having lost his father, who left him in flourishing circumstances, distinguished himself by the invention of a new and most ingenious method of inlaying

1800-1801.

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steel.

steel. Buckles, watch chains, and a great variety of other articles wrought at his manufactory, were exported in large quantities to France, where they were eagerly purchased by the English, who affected to have no taste for the productions of their own country.

The confinement of a populous town was but ill suited to such an establishment as soon became necessary for Mr. Boulton's farther experiments. Accordingly, in the year 1762, he purchased those extensive tracts of common, at that time a barren heath, with only a small house and mill, on which the Soho manufactory now stands. He laid the foundation of his present extensive works, at the expence of nine thousand pounds. To this spot his liberal patronage soon attracted great numbers of ingenious men from all parts, and by their aid he so eminently succeeded in imitating the or molu, that the most splendid apartments in this and in many foreign countries received their ornaments from Soho. Here, too (a most astonishing proof of enterprize and skill !) the works of the greatest masters in oil colours were mechanically taken off, with such ease and exactness, that the original could scarcely be distinguished from the copy. This mode of copying was invented, we believe, by Mr. Eggington, whose performances in stained glass have since introduced his name to the public.

The utmost power of the water mill, which Mr. Boulton had hitherto employed, fell infinitely short, even with the aid of horses, of that immense force which was soon found necessary to the completion of his
his

his designs. Recourse was therefore had, about the year 1767, to that *chef-d'œuvre* of human ingenuity, the steam engine. In speaking of that wonderful machine, we shall adopt the animated language of a late excellent Review:—The steam engine, approaching to the nature of a perpetuum mobile, or rather an *animal*, is incapable of lassitude or sensation, produces coals, works metals, moves machines, and is certainly the noblest *drudge* that was ever employed by the hand of art. Thus we “put a hook in the nose of the leviathan: thus we “play with him as a child, and take him for a servant for ever:”* thus “we subdue nature, and derive aid and comfort from the elements of earthquakes.”†

The first engine that Mr. Boulton constructed was on M. Savary's plan, of which the reader will find one of the most satisfactory accounts in Professor Bradley's “New Improvements of Planting and Gardening,”‡ &c. But the machine was yet, as it were, in its infancy, and by no means answered Mr. Boulton's expectations. In the year 1769, Mr. James Watt, of Glasgow, obtained a patent for such a prodigious improvement of it, that Mr. Boulton immediately sought his acquaintance, and induced him to settle at Soho. At this place the facility of its application to a variety of concerns, wherein great force was requisite, soon manifested its superior utility and vast advantages to the public; Parliament, therefore, in

* Job xli. 2—4. † Analyt. Review, Feb. 1797. p. 220.

‡ Seventh Edit. p. 315.

1775, cheerfully granted a prolongation of Mr. Watt's patent for twenty-five years. A partnership now commenced between Messrs. Boulton and Watt; and a manufactory of steam-engines, on their improved plan, was established at Soho, which still supplies the chief mines and manufactories throughout the kingdom.

Aided by such talents, and commanding such unlimited mechanical powers, Mr. Boulton's views soon expanded, and Soho began to exhibit symptoms of the extraordinary advantages it had acquired. The art of coining had long stood in need of simplification and arrangement, and to this art Mr. Boulton no sooner turned his attention, than, about the year 1788, he erected a coining mill, on an improved plan, and struck a gold medal of the full weight of a guinea, and of the same form as that of his new copper coinage lately put into circulation. The superior advantages of that form are obvious. The impression is far less liable to friction; and by means of a steel gauge of equal diameter, money coined on that principle may be examined by measure as well as by weight, the rim being exactly circular. Moreover, the intrinsic is so nearly equal to the current value of every piece, that, without a steam-engine and adequate apparatus, every attempt to counterfeit the Soho coinage must be made with loss. The fabrication of base money seems likely, by these means, to be speedily checked, and, it is to be hoped, entirely defeated. The reason why Mr. Boulton has not yet been

been employed by Government in the coinage of gold and silver, we have not been able to learn.

The mill at Soho works eight machines, *each of which receives, stamps, and delivers out, by the aid of only a little boy, from seventy to ninety pieces of copper in one minute.* Either of them is stopped without the smallest interruption to the motion of the others. In adjoining apartments all the preparatory processes are carried on with equal facility and dispatch; such as rolling the copper into sheets, dividing them into blanks, and shaking them into bags clean and ready for the die. Without any personal communication between the different classes of workmen, &c. the blanks are conveyed to the room where they are shaken, and from thence to the coining room in boxes moving with immense velocity on an inclined plane, and accompanied by a ticket of their weight.

The Sierra Leone Company have employed Mr. Boulton's mint in the coinage of silver, and the East India Company in that of copper. Two complete mints have likewise been lately sent to Petersburg.

Since the demise of the late Empress Catharine, Mr. Boulton presented her successor, the late Emperor Paul I. with some of the most curious articles of his manufactory, and in return received a polite letter of thanks and approbation, together with a splendid collection of medals, minerals from Siberia, and specimens of all the modern money of Russia. Among the medals, which for elegance of design and beauty of execution, have never yet been equalled in this or any other country, is a massy one of gold, impressed

with a striking likeness, it is said, of that monarch. Our readers will be surprized, when they are told that this unrivalled piece was struck from a die engraved by the present Empress dowager, who has from her youth taken great delight in the art of engraving on steel.

With the view of still further improving and facilitating the manufactory of steam-engines, Messrs. Boulton and Watt have lately, in conjunction with their sons, established a foundry at Smethwick, a short distance from Soho. Here that powerful agent is employed, as it were, to multiply itself, and its various parts are fabricated and adapted together with the same regularity, neatness, and expedition, which distinguish all the operations of their manufactory. Those engines are afterwards distributed to all parts of the kingdom by the Birmingham canal, which communicates with a wet dock belonging to the foundry.

To such amazing perfection has the steam-engine at length been brought, that the consumption of one bushel of Newcastle coals will raise nearly six thousand hogsheads of water ten feet high, and will do the work of ten horses for one hour. This remarkable abridgment of human labour, and proportionate diminution of expence, are, in a great measure, the result of trials made under the auspices of Mr. Boulton. But for a more complete account of these machines, their power, &c. we must refer the reader to Dr. Darwin's Botanic Garden.*

* Fourth edit. note xi. page 287.

It could scarcely be expected that envy would view with indifference such singular merit, and such unexampled success. The inventions and improvements of Messrs. Boulton and Watt were first imitated, and then either decried or disputed. Reason laboured in vain to silence the clamours of injustice, and to defeat the stratagems of fraud. At length, in the year 1792, a solemn decision of Parliament, and, about the same time, the concurrent opinion of the Court of King's Bench, forbade any further encroachment.

The last discovery for which Mr. Boulton obtained a patent, was the important "Method of raising Water and other Fluids;" an ample description of which our readers will find in the *Monthly Magazine*, a publication which is in every body's hands.* The uses to which this engine may be applied are various: besides the raising of water for the use of brewers, &c. it may be employed in raising water from the sea for salt works, in draining marshes, and in pumping ships, and supplying with water those canals which are carried over or by the side of rivers. One great excellence of this apparatus is, that it requires no expence of fuel, nor attention from workmen. When once set a-going it will work of itself without any trouble; requiring only to be now and then inspected and kept in repair.

Whoever contemplates the merit and utility of a long life devoted to such valuable pursuits, as we have here briefly and very imperfectly described, and

* Vol. v. p. 294; vol. vi. p. 124.

recollects without emotion, that the spot whereon so much has been done, and is still doing ; where hundreds of women and children easily earn a comfortable subsistence ;* where population is rapidly encreasing, and the means of national prosperity encreasing in proportion, was lately a bleak, swampy, and sterile waste, must want understanding to comprehend, or sympathy to appreciate, the happiness of his fellow-creatures.

Mr. Boulton is now in his seventy-third year, and he appears to possess the hilarity of youth. Extraordinary exertions, often both of body and mind, seem not to have impaired a constitution, which must have been naturally robust. He is fond of music, and takes great delight in the company of young people. One son, a young man of considerable accomplishment and great promise in his father's line, and one daughter, both of them unmarried, have survived their mother. Mr. Boulton is fellow of the Royal Societies of London and Edinburgh, and of the Free Economical Society of Petersburg, as well as of many other foreign institutions.

* We have been unable to ascertain the number of hands employed by Mr. Boulton at this time, which must frequently vary according to the changes that necessarily take place in the demand for different articles ; but we know, that when Mr. Boulton junior came of age, in 1791, seven hundred workmen sat down to an entertainment given by his father.

PROFESSOR PORSON.

IT is commonly expected by readers of transient memoirs, that the writer should enliven his narrative with sprightly anecdotes, or sallies of humour. The author of the following article by no means censures such expectations, or the practice of those memorialists who study to gratify them. Such expectations are natural ; and the practice, when pursued with spirit, and regulated with judgment, deserves great commendation. Anecdote is often the zest of biography ;—but

Damus accipimusque vicissim—

nothing will be attempted on the present occasion, but discrimination of character, and accuracy of statement. To labour to say all that might be said would be folly. The writer, however, professes to have taken some pains to give a faithful, and, what he flatters himself will be reckoned, an interesting account. But the learned person, of whom a short memorial is here intended, is not responsible for a single line ; the whole having been written, not only without his concurrence, but without his knowledge ; and, perhaps, an apology to himself and friends would not be improper. The author, therefore, begs leave to say, that he was influenced by a sincere admiration of a man distinguished by uncommon abilities and attainments, and possessed of many amiable traits of character. The delineation of these, he thought, would at once be favourable to his own pursuits, and
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tend to the public utility. If he has been enabled to preserve the line of undeviating accuracy, he must acknowledge himself indebted in many particulars to a learned and respectable person.

Richard Porson, the Greek professor of the University of Cambridge, is a name conspicuous in the republic of letters; indeed, so eminently so, that we must confine our attention to him wholly as a man of literature. The limits prescribed us are narrow; and of a person never varying his manners, through the love of adventure, or in search of preferment, nothing can be said either marvellous or glowing; little, indeed, but what must be connected in some way or other with his study, and what will consequently interest few, but the friends of learning.

This gentleman received his education, under the Rev. Dr. Davis, at Eton school, a seminary which has long stood proudly pre-eminent for classical literature, and produced many of the brightest ornaments in the learned world.

One accustomed to reading from his earliest years soon arrives at the maturity of his understanding, leaving those of his own age far behind to put the question of surprize—Whence hath this child such knowledge?

Such was the case of Porson while at Eton school. The progress made by him in the learned languages was rapid, and he quickly reached the fifth form. As a school-boy it was unnecessary for him to proceed any further, and he could indulge no expectations from the foundation, as a reason for a longer continuance.

tinuance. Eton school is a kind of nursery for King's College, Cambridge, and the scholarships and fellowships of King's are confined to persons educated in that school. But had Porson waited at Eton for a removal to King's, he must have been superannuated. He removed, therefore, to Trinity College, Cambridge, when about eighteen years of age.

Our young Grecian brought with him to college an uncommon degree of knowledge in classical literature, together with a fondness for general reading, but more particularly for works of philology and criticism. His singular dexterity in detecting in the Greek writers those inaccurate readings, which arise principally from the mistakes of copyists, had also excited in him an ardent desire after an acquaintance with ancient manuscripts. This desire, so uncommon in a very young man, he was enabled amply to gratify at Cambridge; and at no college could he have more happily been indulged in it than in Trinity, which has not only a most excellent library of printed books, but also a most valuable collection of ancient manuscripts. He was, therefore, here in his proper element; and in this department of literature he now stands unrivalled in this country, if not in any other.

A person, who came to college with a reputation so well established, could not fail, as well from his favourable situation, as from his continued industry, rapidly to extend it. Mr. Porson, therefore, was presented with an under-graduate, with one of the Craven scholars, of which there are two, each fifty pounds

pounds per annum, bequeathed by John Lord Craven.*

The electors to these scholarships are the Vice-Chancellor, the five king's professors, and the public orator; by whom the candidate is examined in classical learning.

While yet an under-graduate, Mr. Porson gave an earnest of what might be expected from him, in future, by the learned world. In the year 1785, a bookseller at Cambridge formed the design of reprinting Xenophon's *Anabasis*, first published at Oxford by Hutchinson. He accordingly applied to Mr. Porson for some additional notes, which were communicated to him, and published at the end of that edition of the *Anabasis*. They appear, indeed, without the critic's name; but they are universally understood to be his. The notes, to which a W. are subjoined, are assigned to a learned friend, who, we are informed, was Mr. Whiter, the author of the *Etymologicum Magnum*, lately published.

These notes are in Porson's manner, concise but acute, and relate principally to MSS. which ought to have been consulted by Hutchinson; but of which, according to our young annotator, he was either entirely ignorant, or had been negligent in the use of them. There is a very short but pithy in-

* For some little documents the writer professes himself indebted to the Cambridge University Calendar, printed by Mr. Flower at Cambridge, which he rather notices as being a very useful publication, containing a list of members, livings, fellowships, scholarships, &c. of the University.

troductory preface to these notes, *Lectori, si quis erit.*

In the year 1782, Mr. Porson took his degree of B. A. at which time he obtained the first of the two gold medals, given to those, who, after taking their degree, shall be found on examination to be the best proficient in classical literature, having first obtained the degree of senior optime, at least, in mathematical learning. These premiums are called the Chancellor's prizes, having been first established in 1764, by the Duke of Newcastle, Chancellor at that time, and continued since by the Duke of Grafton, the present Chancellor. He took his degree of A M, in 1795.

The name of our young graduate being now so celebrated in the University, it was natural for the respectable society, of which he was a member, to feel a pride in the prospect of enrolling him among its fellows. It had formerly been the custom for senior, middle, and junior bachelors alike to offer themselves candidates for fellowships in this college : but as the election had almost always been made out of the two senior years, it had long been deemed unnecessary to encourage the competition of the juniors. In the present instance, however, the old custom was revived. We may, therefore, naturally suppose, that it was in favour of Porson, who, though a junior bachelor, was chosen fellow of Trinity College in 1782. This fellowship, however, he did not long enjoy.

By a statute of Trinity College, if a person holding

ing a fellowship does not, at the end of seven years, enter into orders, he must resign it. Porson had no inclination to go into the church; accordingly, in conformity to the statute, he relinquished his fellowship, and lived, in a very retired manner, a kind of college life, in London.

In the year 1792, however, he was recalled to Cambridge, as a candidate for the Greek professorship, to succeed Mr. William Cooke. There being no other candidate, Porson, after delivering a thesis on Euripides, was chosen, without opposition.

Thus have we brought our professor to the summit of his distinctions in the University; for there he has taken no other degree, and obtained no higher preferment; and, to the best of our knowledge, he has never sought after any titles, pensions, or preferment, either in Church or State. Some persons are rendered more conspicuous by what they do not obtain, and even by what they lose, than others by a multiplication of titles, or by large acquisitions.

For many years Porson lived a retired literary life, principally in London, going occasionally to Trinity College. But in 1796 he entered into a matrimonial connection with the sister of Mr. James Perry, editor of the Morning Chronicle. He, however, enjoyed not the society of this lady long; for he had the misfortune to lose her by death soon after their union.

In the year 1790, a new edition of a learned critical work, entitled, *Emendationes in Suidam et Hesychium et alios Lexicographos Græcos*, was published

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at the Clarendon press at Oxford. To this edition are subjoined, by way of appendix, some short emendations by that learned critic in greek literature, Mr. Thomas Tyrwhitt. In this work our professor acted a part similar to what he had acted before in 1785; he sent some short corrective notes, entitled *Notæ breves, ad Toupii emendationes in Suidam*, and *Notæ in curas novissimas*. They are published only with initials. A. R. P. C. S. S. T. C. S. which are universally understood to stand for, A. Richardo Porson, Collegii Sacro-sanctæ Trinitatis, Cantabrigiæ, Socio. These notes consist of short strictures not only on Toup, but on several other of our most eminent critics in Greek literature.

In the same year Mr. Porson published a controversial work of great celebrity, entitled, *Letters to Mr. Archdeacon Travis*, in answer to his *Defence of the Three Heavenly Witnesses*, 1 John v. 7. a dispute that may at first sight be supposed to belong only to theologians: but which (though we dare not say with the very learned Kettner, *latet in exhaustus scientiarum Thesaurus in hoc excellentissimo dicto*) is generally interesting to philologists and critics. In this erudite performance Mr. Porson approved himself the powerful ally of his learned friend Mr. Herbert Marsh, and in the opinion of the first scholars, at home and abroad, the point in dispute is laid by them for ever at rest.

In 1793, a beautiful edition of Heyne's Virgil, in four volumes large octavo, was printed in England. On this occasion Mr. Porson performed the useful,

though humble, office of corrector of the press. Prefixed to the edition is a short preface, declaratory of what he had done, which was only inserting in their proper places a few conjectures of learned men, that probably had escaped the German editor, and to subjoin a few addenda to the index.

We must not pass on without noticing, that in the year 1795, there was published at Glasgow a very beautiful folio edition of the Seven Tragedies of *Æschylus*. Porson, it is well known, had in his possession a copy of Pauw's edition of *Æschylus*, corrected throughout by himself. This was sent by him to the Glasgow press, but, through various circumstances, the publication was delayed a long time. A surreptitious copy, however, at length appeared without the knowledge of the professor. A printer or publisher, who could thus appropriate the labours of a man of learning as his own, is entitled to the severest animadversion.—However, of this beautiful volume a few copies have been published; and Schutz, who has published an edition of *Æschylus* in Germany, has subjoined Porson's new readings at the end of one of the volumes, with the most respectful notice of the Professor's edition.

Our Professor's next work was published in 1797: this is the *Hecuba* of Euripides, corrected on the faith of manuscripts, with short notes, &c. This first play was edited, to try the public taste, and to prepare the way for the plays of Euripides, each to follow in due order. It is accompanied with a preface, explaining the nature of the undertaking, vindicating its leading characteristics,

characteristics, and announcing the future intentions of the editor. Two other plays of this tragedian have been since published by him, with notes somewhat more extended than those of the Hecuba.

Soon after the publication of the Hecuba by Mr. Porson, appeared a few animadversions, conceived and published with great dispatch by that learned and indefatigable critic Mr. Gilbert Wakefield, entitled, *Diatribæ Extemporales*. They contain remonstrances against some of the Professor's readings, several from Wakefield's own conjectures, others from manuscripts quoted by Porson, and attacks on one or two canons of criticism laid down by the latter in his preface to the Hecuba.

It is not our intention, neither indeed would this be the proper place, if we were so inclined, to enter upon such a controversy. We, therefore, only express our respect for the talents and learning, for the generous attachment to freedom, and the ardent love of independence, which characterize these distinguished critics; saying respectfully of each what Wakefield has, at the end of his Diatribe, applied to the Professor.

Vade, age, et ingentem factis fer ad æthera Trojam.

It may, however, not be improper just to observe, that the grounds of these differences have been amply stated and discussed by two writers, the one a critic, evidently of great abilities, in the Monthly Review, the other a German critic, of considerable character, well known as the author of a Treatise on Greek Metre. The former sides with the Professor against

1800-1801.

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Wakefield.

Wakefield. The latter has published a new edition of the Hecuba, with the professed design of opposing the Professor.

We have thus given a summary of all the literary works of Professor Porson, that have fallen in our way, or that we can confidently pronounce to be his. But we must not forget to notice a work, which, though not yet published, is anxiously looked for by the learned world. This is an elaborate edition of a manuscript copy of the Greek lexicon, compiled by the celebrated Photius, the learned patriarch of Constantinople in the seventh century. This fine manuscript is the property of Trinity College, and was copied by the Professor for publication several years ago. But, unfortunately, after having been transcribed with great care for the press, it was destroyed a few years since by the fire that consumed the house of his brother-in-law, Mr. Perry, at Merton. The manuscript has, however, been re-copied with great elegance. It is expected, therefore, (for, we understand, the copy is now completed) that his lexicon will in due time be made public; and should it be accompanied (as we have reason to believe it will) with FAC SIMILES of the original, it will at once be a very valuable Greek lexicon, and a most useful guide to such as are desirous of searching into the archives of Greek palæography.

As we have spoken of Mr. Porson principally as a man of letters and a writer, our account must not be closed without observing of his style of writing,—that it expresses a sound judgment, acute remark, and
critical

critical precision ; never wordy, flowery, or declamatory, but clear, pointed and decisive. His Latin composition, also, is correct and classical, but not affected or laboured ; precise, without stiffness, and elegant without extravagance ; never swelling into bombast, or sinking into puerility. His countenance also strongly indicates his character,—close, collected, and to strangers, at first sight, expressive of reserve ; but among his friends, immediately expanding into frankness, and readily kindling into smiles. He is conscious of his talents, and not indifferent about his reputation ; but neither satisfied with flimsy indiscriminate praise, nor possessed of sufficient self-complacency to be an egotist. His manners are sociable, and his conversation abounds with literary anecdote : and to the credit of his heart let it be added, that he can discuss a subject that respects the interest of the poor, and the cause of benevolence, as readily as he can a question relative to the harmony of languages, the authority of manuscripts, or the niceties of Greek criticism.

The hours of Mr. Porson, we understand, are now pretty uniformly passed in his own study, or in social intercourse with his literary friends. A great portion of his leisure hours, we believe, he spends in the study of a learned friend, who was his fellow-collegian, Dr. Raine, the respectable master of Charter-house School ; but he occasionally retires to his college, where he is received by his academic associates with esteem, and listened to with respect.

We have purposely avoided touching on his political and theological creed, through a desire of confining ourselves to that view of his character by which he is more particularly distinguished, and which furnishes such ample materials. But of a man possessed of such talents and learning as Professor Porson, it is pleasing to the writer of this article to remark, that, if he has never appeared foremost in any party either in church or state, he is well known to possess great liberality of sentiment, and to be a warm friend to the civil and religious liberties of mankind. D.

MR. PINKERTON.

IN giving an account of an antiquary, it is natural to mention ancient records. The first appearance of the name of Pinkerton is in Prynne's papers* of the reign of Edward I. whence it appears that Nicol de Pinkerton paid homage to that prince for his lands in the neighbourhood of Dunbar, probably containing the village still called Pinkerton. This seems to have been the first seat of the name, which arose from the village: but the most numerous branches of it are in the west of Scotland, particularly about Dalserf and Rutherglen, in Clydesdale; and the name frequently appears in the list of magistrates of the latter town, as published in a recent

* Prynne's Records, vol. iii. p. 661. *Nicol de Pynkerton de Counté de Haddington.*

history of it. In a quarto pamphlet published 1651, called, "An Abstract of the State of his Majesty's Revenue;" there is the item: "To Robert Pinkerton, Falconer to the King, 18d. per diem, and 13l. 13s. 9d. per annum for his living." There was also a captain Pinkerton, who conducted part of the unfortunate expedition to Darien, as appears from Carstairs's State Papers.

The grandfather of Mr. John Pinkerton was • Walter, a worthy and honest yeoman at Dalsersf, who had a pretty numerous family. As presbyterians at that time abounded in the west of England, there was a considerable intercourse between them and those of Scotland. James Pinkerton, a son of Walter, settled in Somersetshire, where he acquired a moderate fortune, being, as is believed, what was then styled a hair-merchant, wigs being much worn, and considerable profits arising from an article in universal request. About 1755, he returned to his native country, and married Mrs. Bowie, the widow of a respectable merchant in Edinburgh, who left three children. James, the eldest, was a spirited youth, who joined the army as a volunteer, and was slain at the battle of Minden; his brother Robert succeeded to an estate in Lanerkshire left by their father. By his wife, whose maiden name was Heron, the daughter of a physician or apothecary in Edinburgh, James Pinkerton acquired some additional property.

John Pinkerton was born at Edinburgh on the 17th of February, 1758. His father soon afterwards removed to one of his wife's houses at Grange-gate-

side, near Edinburgh, where John went to a day-school, kept by an old woman, who relieved the dryness of English grammar by a mixture of sweetmeats. About 1764, he was sent to the capital grammar-school at Lanerk, kept by Mr. Thomson, who had married the sister of Mr. Thomson the poet, then an old lady with a glass eye, and with a temper equally brittle. But Mr. Thomson was of a most even temper, and possessed of great dignity of person and demeanour. Inheriting from his father a portion of hypocondriacism, young Pinkerton was always a shy boy, fonder of rural and solitary walks than of boisterous amusements; and, from an original infirmity of nerve, absolutely devoured by *mauvaise honte*, a shocking sensation, which ought to be the punishment of the wicked, instead of a companion of the feeling and the good. At school he was generally the second or third of his class; but nothing remarkable distinguished this period, except one incident: Mr. Thomson one day ordered the boys to translate a part of Livy into English; when he came to young Pinkerton's *version*, as it is called in Scotland, he read it silently to himself, then, to the great surprize of the boys, walked quickly out of the school, but soon returned with a volume of Hooke's Roman History, in which the same part of Livy was translated. He read both aloud, and gave his decided opinion in favour of his disciple's translation, which not a little flattered boyish vanity, and perhaps sowed in him the first seeds of authorship.

After being six years at school, the last year of which

which only was dedicated to the Greek, he returned to his father's house near Edinburgh. The father having some dislike to university education, John was kept in a kind of solitary confinement at home; and his father, being of a severe and morose disposition, his duration little tended to give much firmness to his nerves. An hour or two passed every day in attending a French teacher; and in his eagerness to attain this language, he had totally lost his Greek, and nearly his Latin also: but soon after, meeting with Rollin's Ancient History, and observing references to the original authors, he bought the History of Justinus, &c. and soon recovered his Latin so as to write, when he was about thirteen years of age, tolerable fragments in that language. He afterwards studied mathematics two or three years, under Mr. Ewing, an able teacher at Edinburgh, and proceeded as far as the doctrine of infinities.

Though he expected a decent competency from his father, yet being tired of constant confinement, and the want of company and diversity, it was proposed that he should study the law; and he accordingly served a regular apprenticeship of five years to Mr. William Aytoun, an eminent writer to the signet,* a gentlemen more fond of expence, show, and rural life, than of the law, but of noble and liberal dispositions. He would sometimes, however, check his pupil for poring over Copernicus, when he ought to

* Writers to the signet are select solicitors who alone, are permitted to sign writings which in Scotland pass the royal signet.

have been reading Dallas's Styles, being old models for law papers.

Young Pinkerton had no taste for poetry till he was upwards of twelve years of age, his idea of it being merely that it was more nonsensical than prose, and used many words to express little meaning. But Beattie's *Minstrel*, being much talked of, he read it, and was delighted. Shakspeare and Milton followed: and it then struck him that he had read Virgil, Horace, and Anacreon, merely as tasks, whereas Mr. Thomson should have pointed out their beauties, and have read parts of good criticisms on their works, which would have opened the sources of curiosity.

After reading the *Minstrel*, he was induced to attempt English verses, all his prior little compositions having been in Latin. As he often visited Craigmillar Castle, in his neighbourhood, once the residence of the unfortunate Mary, he printed a little *Elegy*, called "*Craigmillar Castle*," dedicated to Dr. Beattie, who favoured the young author with his criticisms and advice. This boyish production appeared about 1776. A tragedy afterwards followed, which he committed to the flames, built upon a modern Latin drama, called *Zeno*. Another tragedy, we believe, is still in being, in manuscript, which, by the intervention of a lady, was shown to Dr. Blair, who praised the style, but said that it wanted incident. It has been since revised and totally altered, and it is to be hoped will be produced at one of our theatres.

The pathetic old Scottish ballads inspired him with
awish

a wish to attempt something of that kind ; and the second part of *Hardyknute* was written about 1776, when the author was eighteen. He also wrote other pieces in that manner, all of which were confessed, and pointed out in his edition of the *Maitland Poems*, 1786. Nothing could be more innocent than this supposed imposition ; and he has been heard to say that he perfectly recollects his train of ideas on the subject, while his mind would have shrunk from the smallest dishonesty or disingenuity. It was merely that as we know not the authors of any of the old Scottish ballads, the very uncertainty seemed to lend an additional charm and veneration. His youthful vanity led him to hope that his might pass into the same class ; but he resolved, at the same time, to avow himself the author, after a certain period had elapsed.

In 1780, soon after his apprenticeship was expired, his father died ; and being often disappointed in procuring uncommon books at Edinburgh, he visited London, where the size and extent of the Booksellers' catalogues formed his sole motive for wishing to fix his residence. This determination was confirmed by the bankruptcy of some merchants in Glasgow, who held about one thousand pounds of his father's money, the whole of which was lost. He accordingly returned to Scotland in the spring of 1781, took up the remaining sums lying in mercantile hands, and, returning to England, settled in the neighbourhood of London in the winter of that year. On his first visit to the metropolis, he had published
a small

a small volume of Juvenile Poetry, written too much after the manner of the Spenserian and Italian school of allegory and extreme refinement.

He returned to London merely as a reader, and without the smallest intention of proceeding further in his authorship: being a great admirer of Gray, and wishing like him to begin and end his career with one small book. The publication of the Scottish ballads he regarded as the trifling office of an editor, and not as that of an author. As an editor he has since published many books; as an author few, but those of the first class.

From a boy he was fond of collecting medals, minerals, and other curiosities; and having received from a lady in Scotland a rare coin of Constantine, on his Sarmatian victory, which she had taken as a farthing, he soon laid the foundation of a little collection, and used to read Addison's Dialogues on Medals with infinite delight. These pursuits led him to see the defects of common books on the subject, and he drew up a manual and tables for his own use, which afterwards grew to the excellent and complete Essays on Medals, published by Dodsley, in 1784.

Horace Walpole, the late Earl of Orford, being highly pleased with this able and classical work, sent a polite letter to the author, which was followed by long and intimate acquaintance. Mr. Walpole was still more delighted with the Letters of Literature, which he never saw till they were printed, otherwise his advice would doubtless have occasioned the suppression

pression of several crude puerilities. Many of these papers were written in more youthful years, when the author was immersed in poetical fancy, and unexperienced in study. The original title of the book was "Letters of Literature;" but as the title of a book is the last part that is printed, the author happened to call on the printer, who observed, that it was bare : to which it was answered, that there seemed to be a degree of presumption in a man's publishing his own letters with his name. Upon a moment's reflection, the letters of Mr. Melmoth, published under the fictitious name of Sir Thomas Fitzosborne, occurred to memory; and an imaginary name was accordingly affixed to the title page. Many petulances in these letters, which gave offence both in the literary and political world, would have been withdrawn by more mature experience; but the praise of Gibbon, Horace Walpole, and Lord Charlemont, must be allowed to indicate that the work was not without merit.

As an author, Mr. Pinkerton has since published the well known dissertation on the Scythians or Goths, and an Enquiry into the Ancient History of Scotland, two volumes. His last work, and which is above our praise, is the History of Scotland, in two volumes quarto. Of some anonymous trifles, which he sometimes only corrected, he has only been reputed the author.

As an editor he has published many volumes of ancient Scottish history, and a collection of ancient Latin lives of Saints, tending to illustrate the early history

history of his country: No higher authority can be quoted than that of the late Mr. Gibbon, on subjects of literature. His opinion of the talents and erudition of Mr. Pinkerton will be found at page 713 of the second volume of his miscellaneous Works, lately published by Lord Sheffield. We shall conclude this article by quoting Mr. Gibbon's own words; and we hope, on the return of peace, if Mr. Pinkerton's health and leisure permit, that he will be encouraged to undertake the great national work proposed.

"It is long, very long indeed, since the success of our neighbours, and the knowledge of our resources, have disposed me to wish, that our Latin memorials of the middle age, the *Scriptores Rerum Anglicarum*, might be published in England, in a manner worthy of the subject and of the country. At a time when the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire has intimately connected me with the first historians of France, I acknowledged (in a note) the value of the Benedictine Collection, and expressed my hope that such a national work would provoke our own emulation. My hope has failed, the provocation was not felt, the emulation was not kindled; and I have now seen, without an attempt or a design, near thirteen years, which might have sufficed for the execution. During the greatest part of that time I have been absent from England: yet I have sometimes found opportunities of introducing this favourite topic in conversation with our literary men, and our eminent booksellers. As long as I expatiated on the merits of an undertaking, so beneficial to history, and so honourable to the nation, I was heard with attention: a general wish seemed to prevail for its success: but no sooner did we seriously consult about the best means of promoting that success, and of reducing a pleasing theory into a real action, then we were stopped, at the first step, by an insuperable difficulty—the choice of an editor. Among the authors already known to the public, none, after a fair review, could be found, at once pos-

sessed

essed of ability and inclination. Unknown, or at least untried abilities could not inspire much reasonable confidence; some were too poor, others too rich; some too busy, others too idle; and we knew not where to seek our English Muratori; in the tumult of the metropolis, or in the shade of the university. The age of Herculean diligence, which could devour and digest whole libraries, is passed away; and I sat down in hopeless despondency, till I should be able to find a person endowed with proper qualifications, and ready to employ several years of his life in assiduous labour, without any splendid prospect of emolument or fame.

“The man is at length found, and I now renew the proposal in a higher tone of confidence. The name of this editor is Mr. John Pinkerton; but as that name may provoke some resentments, and revive some prejudices, it is incumbent on me, for his reputation, to explain my sentiments without reserve; and I have the satisfaction of knowing that he will not be displeased with the freedom and sincerity of a friend. The impulse of a vigorous mind urged him, at an early age, to write and to print, before his taste and judgment had attained to their maturity. His ignorance of the world, the love of paradox, and the warmth of his temper, betrayed him into some improprieties: and those juvenile sallies, which candour will excuse, he himself is the first to condemn, and will perhaps be the last to forget. Repentance has long since propitiated the mild divinity of Virgil, against whom the rash youth, under a fictitious name, had darted the javelin of criticism. He smiles at his reformation of our English tongue, and is ready to confess, that in all popular institutions, the laws of custom must be obeyed by Reason herself. The Goths still continue to be his chosen people, but he retains no antipathy to a Celtic savage; and without renouncing his opinions and arguments, he sincerely laments that those literary arguments have ever been embittered, and perhaps enfeebled, by an indiscreet mixture of anger and contempt. By some explosions of this kind, the volatile and fiery particles of his nature have been discharged, and there remains a pure and solid substance, endowed with many active and useful energies. His recent publications, a Treatise on Medals, and the edition of the early Scotch Poets, discover a mind replete with a variety of knowledge, and inclined to every liberal pursuit; but his decided propensity

propensity, such propensity as made Bentley a critic, and Rennel a geographer, attracts him to the study of the history and antiquities of Great Britain; and he is well qualified for this study, by a spirit of criticism, acute, discerning, and suspicious. His edition of the original Lives of the Scottish Saints has scattered some rays of light over the darkest age of a dark country; since there are so many circumstances in which the most daring legendary will not attempt to remove the well known land-marks of truth. His Dissertation on the origin of the Goths, with the Antiquities of Scotland, are, in my judgment, elaborate and satisfactory works; and were this a convenient place, I would gladly enumerate the important questions in which he has rectified my old opinions concerning the migrations of the Scythic or German nation from the neighbourhood of the Caspian and the Euxine to Scandinavia, the eastern coasts of Britain, and the shores of the Atlantic ocean. He has since undertaken to illustrate a more interesting period of the History of Scotland; his materials are chiefly drawn from papers in the British Museum, and a skilful judge has assured me, after a perusal of the manuscript, that it contains more new and authentic information than could be fairly expected from a writer of the eighteenth century. A Scotchman by birth, Mr. Pinkerton is equally disposed, and even anxious, to illustrate the History of England: he had long, without my knowledge, entertained a project similar to my own; his twelve letters, under a fictitious signature, in the Gentleman's Magazine (1788), display the zeal of a patriot, and the learning of an antiquarian. As soon as he was informed, by Mr. Nicol the bookseller, of my wishes and my choice, he advanced to meet me with the generous ardour of a volunteer, conscious of his strength, desirous of exercise, and careless of reward; we have discussed in several conversations, every material point that relates to the general plan and arrangement of the work; and I can only complain of his excessive docility to the opinions of a man much less skilled in the subject than himself. Should it be objected, that such a work will surpass the powers of a single man, and that industry is best promoted by the division of labour, I must answer, that Mr. Pinkerton seems one of the children of those heroes, whose race is almost extinct; that hard assiduous study is the sole

sole amusement of his independent leisure; that his warm inclination will be quickened by the sense of a duty resting solely on himself; and that he is now in the vigour of age and health; and that the most voluminous of our historical collections was the most speedily finished by the diligence of Muratori alone. I must add, that I know not where to seek an associate; that the operations of a society are often perplexed by the division of sentiments and characters, and often retarded by the degrees of talent and application; and that the editor will be always ready to receive the advice of judicious counsellors, and to employ the hand of subordinate workmen.

Since the first impression of this volume, Mr. Pinkerton has favoured the world with the most correct system of Geography in our language, in 2 vols. 4to. That ingenious and highly entertaining collection, the *Walpoliana*, with the admirable biographic sketch of Lord Orford prefixed, is also generally attributed to this gentleman.

S.

MR. WILBERFORCE.

THE town of Hull has had the high honour of being the birth-place of two eminently distinguished senators, Marvel and Wilberforce, both of whom were the representatives of their native place. Marvel, the friend of Milton, and Latin Secretary to Cromwell, was, about the time of the Restoration, elected member of Parliament for Hull, in which situation he continued till his death, in the year 1678. He distinguished himself by his integrity as a senator, and by his wit as a writer, against the corruptions of the Court. Great pains were taken to seduce this patriot from his principle, but he steadily withstood the attacks of the Monarch, preferring poverty and honour

honour to the wealth and splendour which the prodigal Charles wished to bestow upon him, as a reward for the sacrifice of his conscience.*

Mr. Wilberforce, the subject of the following memoir, was born in the year 1759, and is grandson to William Wilberforce, Esquire, who was twice Mayor of Hull, first in the year 1722, and again in 1740, In 1771, this venerable magistrate, feeling the infirmities of old age, resigned his gown, after a long and faithful discharge of the duties which attached to his office as Alderman. By the death of Mr. Wilberforce's father, while he was very young, the important task of his education fell to the direction of a prudent and affectionate mother, who seems to have been in every respect qualified for the charge. She first placed her son under the care of the Rev. Mr. Pockington; shortly after which he was sent to the grammar school of the Rev. Joseph Milner, at Hull.

About the year 1774, he was entered at St. John's College, Cambridge, at which university he formed an intimate friendship with Mr. Pitt, the late Minister, and with Dr. Isaac Milner, brother of Mr. Joseph Milner, and now the worthy Dean of Carlisle.

When Mr. Wilberforce came of age, which was but a few weeks prior to the general election in 1780; the inhabitants of the town of Hull were invited to

* The political works of Andrew Marvel were collected and published in two volumes, 12mo. in 1726. They were afterwards printed, with his other pieces both prose and verse, in three volumes quarto.

share in scenes of great festivity: for the populace, an ox was roasted whole, which was accompanied with several hogsheds of ale. By these means he attached the lower orders of the freemen to his interest; and his own respectable character having already made him the friend of those who were not to be seduced by selfish motives, he was, in conjunction with Lord Robert Manners, almost unanimously elected the representative of Hull. During the existence of that Parliament, we do not find that Mr. Wilberforce took any very active political part. In the year 1784, he was re-elected with Mr. Thornton; but this honour he then declined, having been chosen also a representative for the county of York.

As a senator, Mr. Wilberforce has chiefly distinguished himself on the subject of the slave-trade. His exertions in that cause, which, for several successive years was considered as a national cause, have enrolled his name among the most distinguished and zealous friends of humanity.

Soon after the meeting of Parliament, in the year 1787, Mr. Wilberforce gave the first public notice of his intention to bring forward a measure respecting the slave-trade. Mr. Fox, at the same time, observed, that it was his intention also to have introduced the business for the consideration of Parliament. In consequence of this notice, a great number of petitions were presented from the Universities of Cambridge, Glasgow, and Aberdeen; from the Society of Quakers; from the counties of Huntingdon, Leicester, Stafford, Northampton, Hert-

ford, Middlesex, and Cambridge; from the cities of Bristol and Norwich; from the town of Birmingham, and from various other cities and towns, demanding the abolition of the slave-trade. The prayer of these petitions was built upon a very obvious principle; they did not desire violently to interfere with the state of our West India islands; they did not wish the immediate emancipation of the slaves; but they conceived that no wise and salutary measure could be adopted, short of the entire and instant abolition of our commerce to Africa for this purpose. The petitioners were, in general, sufficiently averse to slavery, as a condition of human beings; but they contented themselves with the hope, that the putting a stop to the importation of slaves would meliorate the situation of the persons actually placed in that state, and that the gradual improvement of agriculture in the Atlantic islands would be sufficient universally to diffuse the blessings of liberty, without occasioning violent concussions in any part of the world.

On the ninth of May 1788, Mr. Pitt came forward, in the name of his friend Mr. Wilberforce, whose ill state of health would not allow him to appear in public, to propose a resolution to the House of Commons, founded on the petitions that had been presented, to declare, that they would early in the next session proceed to take into consideration the state of the slave-trade, and the measures it might be proper to adopt with respect to it. He trusted, that the decisions of that House on this important subject would be equally dictated by humanity, justice

tice and policy. He also hoped that Mr. Wilberforce would be sufficiently recovered against the commencement of the ensuing session to take the conduct of the business into his own hands, and he believed it would be generally agreed, that a measure of philanthropy and national interest could not be placed in more proper hands.

Notwithstanding the high importance of this subject, a full year elapsed before it was again regularly discussed in Parliament. During this interval, various petitions had been presented from persons principally interested in gains arising from the horrid traffic in human beings, the object of which was to demand, that the abolition of the African trade might not be adopted. Mr. Wilberforce, on this occasion, after a speech not more distinguished for eloquence and energy, than for every principle of sound reasoning, moved twelve propositions; the substance of which was, that the number of slaves annually carried from Africa and imported into the British West Indies amounted to thirty-eight thousand. They farther entered into the probable demerits of the persons sold to slavery; the consequences produced upon the inhabitants of Africa; and the valuable and important commerce to that country which might be substituted in the room of the slave-trade. They stated the injury sustained by the British seamen, and the fatal circumstances that attended the transportation to the slaves; they detailed the causes of the mortality of the negroes, and enumerated the different items of calculation respecting the increase of population

lation in Jamaica and Barbadoes ; and they concluded with declaring, that it appeared no considerable inconvenience would result from discontinuing the farther importation.

These propositions were ably supported by Mr. Pitt, Fox, Burke, and, in short, by all the eloquence of the House of Commons : the opposition to them was violent, though feeble in point of argument, and the question was carried without a division. The friends of humanity cherished great hopes that this was an auspicious commencement of the work to which they had put their hands. Their opponents, however, by examining witnesses, and by other protracting causes, effectually prevented any farther important public discussion of this business till April 1791, when Mr. Wilberforce moved for "leave to bring in a bill to prevent the further importation of African negroes into the British colonies." On this occasion he concluded a most able speech, with declaring, that whatever might be the fate of his motion, he was satisfied of one thing, which was, that the public had already abolished the slave-trade. Supported by this consideration, he should continue to persevere, and would never abandon the object till it was accomplished. Notwithstanding the eloquence and talents exerted by the great leaders of Administration, as well as by Mr. Fox, and other members of the Opposition, Mr. Wilberforce's motion was lost by a majority of 75.

The fate of this business excited a lively interest in the people at large ; petitions were presented in
favour

favour of the abolition from all parts of the country : so that on the second of April, 1792, which was the day Mr. Wilberforce had appointed to renew the discussion, the number of petitions on the table of the House of Commons amounted to 508. The debate on this occasion was, perhaps, the most eloquent and interesting that was ever witnessed in the British Senate. The want of success hitherto seemed to have awakened all the energies, and to have roused every honourable feeling of which the human heart is capable.*

* Our readers will be gratified with the following extract from Mr. Wilberforce's speech on this occasion. After having enumerated the evils attaching to the slave-trade, and the interest which the subject had excited in several parts of Europe, he says, "Denmark has consented to abolish the slave-trade in ten years. Dreadful, indeed, is the idea of tolerating for a moment, much more for so long a term, such a system of wickedness ; but let it be said in excuse for Denmark, that she knew but little of its enormity in comparison with us, and that she also, with somewhat more colour of reasoning, if the argument can in any case be endured, may alledge that the number of slaves she takes off was so small, that her going out of the trade would make no real difference in the number exported from Africa. But can we say this, who carry off almost as many as all the rest of Europe put together ? There is in fact no nation in the world, by which this argument may not be used with more decency, than by ourselves.

"But miserable as this pretext is, I am afraid it will be found on a closer inquiry, that we have no right to avail ourselves of it : let us ask ourselves honestly, if we act like those who are really influenced by this consideration. If we were sincere in our professions, we should surely labour to convince the nations of Europe of the enormities of the slave-trade, and strive to prevail on them to desist from it ; whereas we do the very reverse, we

The speeches of Mr. Wilberforce, Mr. Fox, and particularly that of Mr. Pitt, are still remembered by the witnesses of this scene with the most lively emotions of intellectual pleasure. So irresistible was the eloquence of Mr. Pitt, who did not rise to speak till

sanction it by our example, we push it to an unparalleled extent, and furnish them with this very argument, which if they accept, the slave-trade can never be abolished at all. But there are some persons who adopt a still bolder language, and who declare without reserve, that religion and justice, and humanity, command the abolition of the slave-trade, but that they must oppose the measure because it is inconsistent with the national interest. I trust and believe no such argument will be used this night: for what is it but to establish a competition between God and Mammon, and to adjudge the preference to the latter? What but to dethrone the moral Governor of the world, and to fall down and worship the Idol of Interest? What a manifesto were this to the surrounding nations! what a lesson to our own people? Come then, ye nations of the earth, and learn a new code of morality from the Parliament of Great Britain. We have discarded our old prejudices; we have discovered that religion and justice, and humanity, are mere rant and rhapsody! Why, Sir, these are principles which Epicurus would have rejected for their impiety, and Machiavel and Borgia would have disclaimed as too infamous for avowal, and too injurious to the general happiness of mankind. If God in his anger would punish us for this formal renunciation of his authority, what severer vengeance could he inflict than our successful propagation of these accursed maxims? Consider what effects would follow from their universal prevalence; what scenes should we soon behold around us! in public affairs, breach of faith, and anarchy and bloodshed; in private life, fraud and distrust, and perfidy, and whatever can degrade the human character, and poison the comforts of social and domestic intercourse. Men must retire to caves and deserts, and withdraw from a world become too bad to be endured."

four o'clock in the morning, that it was imagined the question would have been carried by acclamation. Eighty-five persons were only found to vote against the total abolition. However, by a skilful manœuvre of Mr. Dundas, who has given an uniform opposition to the abolition, the word *gradual* was introduced into the motion before it was passed.

The subject was again resumed on the 28th of April, when it was agreed "That it shall not be lawful to import any African negroes into any British colonies, in ships owned or navigated by British subjects, at any time after the first day of January, 1796." That period, however, arrived, but with it no relief was brought to afflicted Africa. The slave-trade still exists, to the disgrace of Britain.

Notwithstanding all the exertions of Mr. Wilberforce, which in this business have been worthy the greatness of the cause in which he has embarked, we believe that the only advantages accruing to the negroes have been some regulations with respect to the space allowed them in the ships by which they are transported from their native shores, and the treatment of them in our colonial settlements. But though these may be considered as something gained to the cause of suffering humanity, yet "slavery is still a bitter draught," and the commerce of Britain is stained with human blood.

The names of Wilberforce, Fox, Pitt, Smith, and many others, stand pledged never to abandon but with their lives that cause in which the happiness,

the liberties and lives of millions of the human race are intimately concerned: we may therefore at least hope that times more propitious to the interests of humanity, justice, and real religion will arrive, when the British Parliament shall collectively manifest the same anxiety to wipe away this reproach from the nation, as the efforts of individuals have been laudable and glorious.

As a friend to human kind we have given ample evidence to Mr. Wilberforce's character; and his benevolent, though hitherto unsuccessful exertions in favour of an injured race of men must entitle him to the esteem of every philanthropist. We are now to consider him in another but not less respectable character, as a friend to religion. In the year 1797, Mr. Wilberforce published a work entitled, "A Practical View of the prevailing Religious System of professed Christians, in the higher and middle classes in this Country, contrasted with real Christianity."

This work had a rapid and most extensive circulation; several editions of it were sold in the course of the first year. It was soon after published in a form better adapted to answer the purposes of those Christians who conceived it to be a work proper for distribution among the lower classes of society: and many thousands have in this way been circulated throughout the kingdom. The work in general consists of regular essays on almost every branch of religion, according to the calvinistic system. The style in which it

it is written is simple; and very well adapted to the subject.*

But though this book was well received by the public at large, for which indeed the senatorial repu-

* The following passages will exhibit to the reader an example of Mr. Wilberforce's style and manner. In the essay addressed to the "*naturally rough and austere*," he says:

"Among men of the world, a youth of softness and sweetness will often harden into insensibility, and sharpen into moroseness. But it is the office of Christianity to reverse this order. It is pleasing to witness this blessed renovation: to see as life advances asperities gradually smoothing down, and roughness mellowing away: while the subject of this happy change experiences within increasing measures of comfort which he diffuses around him, and feeling the genial influence of that heavenly flame which can thus give life and warmth and action to what has hitherto been rigid and insensible, looks up with gratitude to Him who has shed abroad this principle of love in his heart; *miraturque novas frondes et non sua poma.*"

In another part our author, alluding to the times, observes;

"Never were there times which inculcated more forcibly, than those in which we live, the wisdom of seeking happiness beyond the reach of human vicissitudes. What striking lessons have we had of the precarious tenure of all sublunary possessions! Wealth, and power, and prosperity, how peculiarly transitory and uncertain! But Religion dispenses her choicest cordials in the seasons of exigence, in poverty, in exile, in sickness, and in death. The essential superiority of that support which is derived from religion is less felt, at least it is less apparent, when the Christian is in full possession of riches, and splendour, and rank, and all the gifts of nature and fortune. But when all these are swept away by the rude hand of time, or the rough blasts of adversity, the true Christian stands, like the glory of the forest, erect and vigorous; stripped indeed of his summer foliage, but more than ever discovering to the observing eye the solid strength of his substantial texture."

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understanding ; but of her maternal care her children were unhappily deprived, when the eldest, the subject of this memoir, was little more than three years old : her death was the source of many misfortunes, since their father, in consequence of it, quitted his house in Surrey, and went abroad for some time, leaving his children to the care of their mother's sister, who, as far as her tenderness and affection could do it, made up to them the loss which they had sustained. But when a blow so cruel falls on a man of lively passions, and thus destroys his domestic happiness, many evils ensue from the eagerness with which a temporary forgetfulness is sought for by mixing with the world. Returning from the tour he had made, in hopes of dissipating his sorrow, Mr. Turner placed his children at school, and, when the eldest was about ten years old, he sold his estate at Stoke,* near Guildford, and his family resided at his house in Sussex, or occasionally in London, for the purpose of having masters to attend his two daughters, while his son was placed at Westminster school.

The hours of the eldest daughter were now consumed in attempting to acquire, at a great expence, what are called accomplishments. But certain it is, that either from her instructors having been ill chosen, or that because her studies were too soon interrupted, she made no considerable progress in music, on which the greatest expence was lavished, and dedicated much of her time to drawing, with a fondness greater

* Purchased by Mr. Dyson, since by Mr. Aldersley.

than her powers of execution, at least in drawing landscapes, in which the shortness of her sight precluded her from attaining any degree of perfection. At a more mature period of life she was accustomed to regret the time thus employed, and to wish that she had rather been directed in useful reading, and in the study of other languages, as well as the French, which she had acquired in her early infancy. But though her father, who was no contemptible poet himself, encouraged and cherished the talents he thought he observed in his daughter, her aunt, under whose care she still was, had other opinions as to the propriety of indulging her taste for reading, and saw, with alarm, that her niece passed, and she thought wasted, whole days in dwelling over almost any books that fell in her way. Such books, therefore, as were most likely to flatter the taste of a young person, were absolutely prohibited: the consequence of which was that she seized, with indiscriminating avidity, all that she could meet with; by this means acquiring a superficial acquaintance with various subjects of knowledge, that, by awakening her curiosity, led, in subsequent periods, to more complete information.

At this time of her life, though yet at an age when most girls are at school, Mrs. Smith was taken a great deal into company; and almost all the gaiety she ever partook of was between her twelfth and fifteenth year.

But from the dissipations of London, in society, of at least a fashionable description, and from what she
liked

liked better, wandering amidst the romantic beauties of that part of Sussex where her father's house was situated, the time was now come when she was to be removed. Mr. Turner married a second wife, who, however defective in the qualities possessed by the first, had one advantage, by which, in the opinion of the majority, they were more than counterbalanced—a considerable fortune. Mr. Turner, foreseeing that his daughters, the eldest of whom had attained her fifteenth year, would probably object to the authority of a step-mother, suffered them to remain, for some months, under the protection of their aunt; but the eldest daughter was soon after seen and admired by Mr. Smith, the son of a West India merchant, of considerable fortune, who was also an India Director. Her extreme youth, to which the elder Mr. Smith had at least an objection, was no longer considered as such when he became acquainted with her; and, at a period of life when the laws of this country do not allow that a debt of ten pounds shall be contracted, she became the wife of Mr. Smith, and exchanged the pure air of her native country for a residence (made needlessly splendid) in one of the closest and most disagreeable lanes in the city of London.

Much of her time was dedicated to her father-in-law, now a widower, having buried a second wife; and to amuse him she consented that her child (for she became a mother in her seventeenth year) should almost always reside with him. But in the following year, a few days only after the birth of a second son,
this

this lovely infant was carried off by a sore throat, and from that period may be dated the commencement of those sorrows and anxieties, which, with unremitting severity, have pursued her, and given to her productions that tincture of sadness which has excited in every feeling heart so lively an interest. The disorder which robbed her of this child, was of a nature so malignant and infectious, that of all her household, only herself and the new-born infant escaped it ; and that infant, though he survived ten years, suffered so much in this early state of his existence, for want of the care which is then so indispensably necessary, that his feeble and declining health embittered with the most cruel solicitude the life of his mother, who loved him with more than ordinary fondness.

Mrs. Smith, detesting more than ever the house in the city, and being indeed unable to exist in it, removed to a small one at some distance, where, as her husband was a good deal in town, and her sister not always with her, she lived very much alone, occupied solely by her family, which was now increased to three children. It was then that her taste for reading revived, and she had a small library, which was her greatest resource. Her studies, however, did not interfere with the care of her children ; she nursed them all herself, and usually read while she rocked the cradle of one, and had, perhaps another sleeping on her lap. After some changes to different houses in the neighbourhood of London, Mr. Smith's father (now married to that aunt of Mrs. Smith's who had brought her up) purchased for his son a house with
about

about an hundred acres of land around it, called Lys Farm, in Hampshire, and the father undertook the whole management of the West India business, though he was now far advanced in life. At this place the family of Mrs. Smith, consisting of five sons and three daughters, was occasionally increased by the nephews and nieces of her husband, now orphans; and in consequence of so many cares, and a large establishment, (for Mr. Smith launched into farming with more avidity than judgment, and purchased other parcels of land) her time was so much occupied, that but little leisure was left her for those pursuits in which she most delighted. Surrounding circumstances, however, and ill-judged expences, which she could not prevent, rendered her extremely unhappy; and when a few hours of the solitude she had learned to love was allowed her, her thoughts and feelings were expressed in some of those little poems, which she has since called Sonnets: but so far were they from being intended for the public eye, that her most intimate friends never saw them till many years afterwards.

Her father had now been dead some years, and Mr. Smith's father died in 1776; an irreparable loss to her, towards whom he had always expressed particular affection, and of whom his opinion was such, that he appointed her, with his widow and his son, executrix to his will; a measure which her being a wife rendered ineffectual as to any present power. His will, though fortunately it provided for all her children then born, was complex and confused; and the

the trustees, who were also appointed, refusing to act, great inconvenience ensued, and whoever was to blame, Mrs. Smith and her children, now nine in number, were finally the victims,

In 1782, Mr. Smith served the office of Sheriff for the county of Southampton. In the following year came a reverse of fortune, which, though she had expected, and had vainly endeavoured to avert, yet it demanded the utmost fortitude, aided by the tender affection which she had for her children, to keep her from sinking under it. On a subject of so much delicacy it would be improper to dwell : those who witnessed Mrs. Smith's conduct, both while she apprehended the evils that now overtook her, or while she suffered under them, can alone do her justice, or can judge, at least as far as a single instance goes, whether the mind which feels the enthusiasm of poetry, and can indulge in the visionary regions of romance, is always so enervated as to be unfitted for the more arduous tasks and severer trials of human life. Neither the fears of entering into scenes of calamity, nor of suffering in her health, already weakened, prevented her from partaking the lot of her husband, with whom she passed the greater part of seven months in legal confinement, and whose release was, at the end of that time, obtained chiefly by her indefatigable exertions. But during this period some of her hours were spent at the house in Hampshire, which was now to be sold, under such circumstances as those who, in that sad hour, deserted her, are now as unwilling to hear of as she is to relate them.

What were then her sentiments in regard to the summer friends, who so little a time before had courted her acquaintance, and delighted in her company !— Of her relations, her brother only never for a moment relaxed in his tenderness and attention towards her, or in such acts of friendship as he had the power of performing towards her husband. It was the experience she acquired during these seven months of *the chicanery of law, and the turpitude of many of its professors, that, were it proper to enter into the detail, would fully justify those indignant feelings, which, on various occasions, she has not hesitated to express.*

It was during this period too, that, sharing the imprisonment of her husband, she was first induced to turn her thoughts towards the press, and to try whether pecuniary advantage could not be obtained by printing those little pieces of poetry which she had composed in her walks, (often accompanied by her children) and of which only a few had been seen by one or two of her most intimate friends. To her children the 27th sonnet* particularly alludes.

* As this has more than once been pirated, and lately appeared in a newspaper with the name of a person who calls himself the *Reverend Mr. Something*, annexed to it, it is printed here as it was first written, about the year 1781.

Sighing I see yon little group at play,
 By sorrow yet untouch'd, unhurt by care ;
 While free and sportive they enjoy to-day
 Content, and careless of to-morrow's fare.
 O, happy age !—when Hope's unclouded ray
 Lights their green path, and prompts their simple mirth ;
 E'er yet they feel the thorns that lurking lay,
 To wound the wretched pilgrims of the earth,

Making

It occurred to her, that these productions of her talents might, in the reverse of her fortunes, be made to afford a pecuniary resource : under this idea, she transcribed fourteen or fifteen sonnets, which she was induced, by his reputation as a publisher in the fashionable world, to offer personally to Mr. Dodsley, in Pall-Mall. This gentleman's reception of her, which impressed itself on her memory, was by no means liberal or flattering. Slightly regarding the manuscript, he assured her that for such things there was no sale; that the public had been satiated with shepherds and shepherdesses, and that he must decline offering money for the manuscript. To this he added whimsically, that he should not object to print the poems—when, should any profit arise, he might take it for his pains, and, should there be none, there would be no great harm done. Mrs. Smith, as may be supposed, refused this *generous* proposal, and returned to her melancholy abode; sufficiently discouraged with her first literary adventure.

Her brother then desired he might try Messrs. Dilly, in the Poultry, from whom there was reason to expect greater liberality; but one of those gentlemen, having perused one or two of the Sonnets, declared he had no opinion of their success, and wholly declined any treaty respecting them.

Making them rue the hour that gave them birth,
 And threw them on a world so full of pain,
 Where prosperous folly treads on patient worth,
 And, to deaf pride, misfortune pleads in vain!
 Ah! for their future fate how many fears
 Oppress my heart; and fill mine eyes with tears.

Thus repulsed, Mrs. Smith addressed herself, through the interposition of an acquaintance, to Mr. Hayley, then known to her only by name, though he resided within seven miles of her father's house in Sussex, and had long been considered as an author of great celebrity. This gentleman, who doubtless appreciated the productions offered to his perusal with the taste of a poet, did credit to himself by allowing his name to be used by the writer in a dedication. With this encouragement Mrs. Smith returned to Mr. Dodsley, and agreed with him for the publication of the poems on her own account. The immediate success of the thin quarto edition more than justified its author's confidence; a second edition was soon called for; while the profits of the work, in its progress, relieved the writer from those sollicitudes for her children which had weighed down her spirits, and enabled her to look forward with fortitude to the period which should disembarass their father's affairs.*

* The popularity of these exquisite little poems, which have passed through numerous editions, sufficiently testifies their merit: while the imagination is gratified and delighted by the rich poetic imagery with which they abound, their melody, feeling and pathos touch the heart, awaken its sympathies, and seize on its affections. The character and situation of the author are, in the three following sonnets, described in a manner too appropriate and affecting to require an apology for their insertion.

SONNET I.

The partial Muse has, from my earliest hours,
 Smil'd on the rugged path I'm doom'd to tread;
 And still, with sportive hand, has snatch'd wild flowers,
 To weave fantastic garlands for my head:

But

Whatever satisfaction Mrs. Smith derived from the success of her first literary adventure, and the public appreciation of her talents, her situation allowed her no leisure for their culture: entangled in legal perplexities, and occupied with cares for her family, her hours were consumed in labours and solitudes but little favourable to the muse.

By this time an arrangement was made though the

Bat far, far happier is the lot of those
 Who never learn'd her dear delusive art;
 Which, while it decks the head with many a rose,
 Reserves the thorn to fester in the heart.
 For still she bids soft Pity's melting eye
 Stream o'er the ills she knows not to remove,
 Points every pang, and deepens every sigh
 Of mourning friendship, or unhappy love.
 Ah! then how dear the Muse's favours cost,
 If those paint sorrow best,—who feel it most.

SONNET XLVII,

To Fancy.

Thee, Queen of Shadows!—shall I still invoke,
 Still love the scenes thy sportive pencil drew,
 When on mine eyes the early radiance broke,
 Which shew'd the beauteous rather than the true!
 Alas! long since those glowing tints are dead,
 And now 'tis thine in darkest hues to dress
 The spot where pale Experience hangs her head,
 O'er the sad grave of murder'd Happiness!
 Thro' thy false medium, then, no longer view'd,
 May fancied pain and fancied pleasure fly;
 And I, as from me all thy dreams depart,
 Be to my wayward destiny subdued;
 Nor seek perfection with a poet's eye,
 Nor suffer anguish with a poet's heart.

interposition of a court of law. The estate and effects of the elder Mr. Smith were put into trust, and Mr. Smith's relations consented to his being liberated. Their names, as well as of the trustees into whose hands the property now passed, are purposely omitted.

After a day of excessive fatigue, which had succeeded to the most cruel solitudes, Mrs. Smith at length experienced the satisfaction, (the deed of trust having been signed) of beholding her husband freed from his confinement, and accompanied him immediately into Sussex, where their family remained

SONNET XLII.

Composed during a Walk on the Downs, in November, 1787.

The dark and pillowy cloud, the fallow trees,
 Seem o'er the ruins of the year to mourn;
 And, cold and hollow, the inconstant breeze
 Sobs thro' the falling leaves and wither'd fern.
 O'er the tall brow of yonder chalky bourn,
 The evening shades their gather'd darkness fling,
 While, by the lingering light, I scarce discern
 The shrieking night-jar* sail on heavy wing.
 Ah! yet a little—and propitious Spring,
 Crown'd with fresh flowers, shall wake the woodland
 strain;
 But no gay change revolving seasons bring,
 To call forth pleasure from the soul of pain;
 Bid syren Hope resume her long lost part,
 And chase the vulture Care—that feeds upon the heart.

* The night-jar, or night-hawk, or fern owl, less than a rook, is frequently seen of an evening on the Downs. It has a short heavy flight, then rests on the ground, and again, uttering a mournful cry, flits before the traveller, to whom its appearance is supposed by the peasants to portend misfortune.

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under the care of their maternal uncle. Her sensations on this occasion are thus described in a letter to a friend :—

“ It was on the 2d day of July that we commenced our journey. For more than a month I had shared the restraint of my husband, in a prison, amidst scenes of misery, of vice, and even of terror. Two attempts had, since my last residence among them, been made by the prisoners to procure their liberation, by blowing up the walls of the house. Throughout the night appointed for this enterprize, I remained dressed, watching at the window, and expecting every moment to witness contention and bloodshed, or, perhaps, be overwhelmed by the projected explosion. After such scenes, and such apprehensions, how deliciously soothing to my wearied spirits was the soft, pure air of the summer’s morning, breathing over the dewy grass, as (having slept one night on the road) we passed over the heaths of Surrey! My native hills at length burst upon my view—I behold once more the fields where I had passed my happiest days, and, amidst the perfumed turf with which one of those fields was strewn, perceived, with delight, the beloved groupe, from whom I had been so long divided, and for whose fate my affections were ever anxious. The transports of this meeting were too much for my exhausted spirits. After all my sufferings I began to hope I might taste content, or experience at least a respite from calamity.”*

* However honourably a sight of this letter has been obtained, an apology is yet perhaps due to the writer for its insertion.

This interval of joy and hope appears to have been transient—

“ A spot of azure, in a cloudy sky,
A sunny island, in a stormy main.”*

Inured to disappointment, she endeavoured to arm herself with patience : the consciousness of merit and rectitude is, in some degree, its own reward : her children, whose number was now likely to receive an increase, inspired with fortitude their unhappy mother, for whom new and accumulated misfortunes were yet in store.

To a friend they were again indebted for persecution : to preserve the freedom of Mr. Smith, so recently acquired, an immediate retreat to the Continent became necessary : thither, ignorant of the language, he was attended by his wife. The presence of Mrs. Smith being requisite in England, she remained only one day with her husband at Dieppe, whence she returned in the same packet, and was at home before her absence had been perceived. All her efforts were now to be renewed, and another interval of melancholy to be endured, while, in circumstances which rendered her exertions both hazardous and painful, she sought to arrange their perplexed affairs. Her negotiations proving fruitless,

* Scott's Poems.—Or, as is still more elegantly expressed by Mrs. Smith in her Sonnet on the Exile—

And if a flattering cloud appears to shew,
The fancied semblance of a distant soil,
Then melts away—anew his spirits fail,
While the last hope but aggravates his woe!

Mr.

Mr. Smith was compelled to remain abroad, where, becoming acquainted with some English gentlemen, he was persuaded to hire a large but comfortless chateau,* in Upper Normandy, the residence, some time before, of a Scottish nobleman and his brothers. The furniture was purchased at five times its value, and thither was Mrs. Smith, with her children, directed to repair.

Of this expedition she thus writes, in a letter to a friend :—

“ My voyage was without accident ; but of my subsequent journey, in a dark night of October, through the dismal hollows and almost impassable chasms of a Norman cross-road, I could give a most tremendous account. My children, fatigued almost to death, harassed by sea-sickness, and astonished at the strange noises of the French postillions, whose language they did not understand, crept close to me, while I carefully suppressed the doubts I entertained whether it were possible for us to reach, without some fatal accident, the place of our destination. In the situation I then was, it was little short of a miracle that my constitution resisted, not merely the fatigues of the journey, with so many little beings clinging about me, (the youngest, whom I bore in my arms, scarce two years old) but the inconveniences that awaited my arrival at our new abode, in which no accommodation was prepared for my weary charges.”

* Seat, or mansion-house.

In this melancholy exile was Mrs. Smith destined to remain during a severe winter, and a scarcity of fuel, which excited the turbulence of the peasantry : wood being at that period farmed in Normandy, for the profit of the King, no quantity could be purchased but of the contractors at Dieppe, which, at the distance of twelve Norman miles, amounted almost to an absolute prohibition.

These circumstances, with other sources of fatigue and vexation, the severity of the weather, her delicate and perilous situation, far advanced in her pregnancy, and at a distance from all proper assistance and accommodation, added to the melancholy reflections with which she regarded the probable increase to her family, nearly bore down her spirits : possessed with the conviction that she should not survive the approaching hour, for several weeks she never parted with her children of an evening without a presage that they should meet no more. But—"God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb ;"—the period so much dreaded passed over in safety, and another son was added to the family. Mrs. Smith recovered more speedily from her confinement than in the days of her prosperity and indulgence ; hardship and exertion had possibly strengthened her frame ; it is "when the mind's free that the body's delicate." In the midst of deprivations, to which they had been but little accustomed, and inconveniencies of various kinds, the whole family, in their forlorn abode, continued to enjoy uninterrupted health.

But this advantage, whether derived from a life
of

of hardy activity, or from the salubrity of the climate, did not compensate for the excessive expences attending on their insulated situation; while many other circumstances combined to convince them of the expediency of Mrs. Smith's return to England with her family.

Having sent before her the three eldest boys, Mrs. Smith, with seven schildren, the youngest scarcely two months old, prepared to follow: the family were to depend for support on the exertions of the mother, who was likewise charged with the negotiation of her husband's affairs. Her efforts to procure his return proved not unsuccessful: many weeks had not elapsed before they once more found themselves together at the house in Sussex. This situation proving too expensive, they removed to the old family house of the Mills, at Woolbeding, a village once the residence of Otway. It was there the 26th Sonnet, "To the River Avon," was written. But calamity of a nature which no exertions could avert, and the sense of which nothing could assuage, still pursued her. Not long after her eldest son had left her to go out as a writer to Bengal, a fatal fever deprived her also of the second, after only a few hours illness; and all the others were affected by the same dreadful distemper, which nearly cost the lives of two of them. This additional distress was, however, to be contended with: a part of it might, she thought, be alleviated, by having again recourse to her pen; but distrusting her powers in the composition of original prose, she hazarded the translation of a little French novel,

novel, written by the Abbé Prevost, which she had begun as an exercise in Normandy. This performance was, without a name, sold for a very small sum, when the translator applied herself to the selection of extraordinary stories, from authenticated trials, as recorded in a set of books, in old French, entitled, *Les Causes Célèbres*. This work, published under the title of *The Romance of Real Life*, for which an inconsiderable compensation was obtained, cost the translator a great deal of trouble, aggravated by the circumstances under which it was executed.

It is so difficult to speak with requisite delicacy of persons yet living, that particulars are avoided; and it is only necessary to say, that Mr. Smith again going abroad, she resided with her children in a small cottage, in another part of Sussex, where, her time being less interrupted, she enlarged, with many beautiful additions, the collection of small poems, which, under the title of *Elegiac Sonnets*, were published, for the third time, embellished with plates, by subscription. This mode of publication, to which the assent of the author had been with difficulty procured, must, to a delicate and independent spirit, be ever repugnant: on such a spirit the most humiliating pangs are inflicted by the vulgar pride of wealth, and the ostentation of patronage. If, from this painful experience, Mrs. Smith, in some instances, was not exempted, in others she tasted the sweetness, so affecting to a sensible heart, of receiving obligations, the value of which was enhanced a thousand-fold by the grace and kindness with which they were conferred.

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It was during her residence in this cottage that, in the course of about eight months, she composed the novel of Emmeline ; which was followed, in about a twelvemonth, by Ethelinde, or the Recluse of the Lakes. While she was engaged in this interesting work, she was under the necessity of quitting her peaceful abode, and of making new attempts to settle those affairs, which the persons employed to arrange studied only how to entangle and perplex. Her industry alone enabled her, during this period, to support her family, for, of the interest of her own fortune, only a small share remained annually to her, and even that was irregularly paid.

Though no longer in the absolute seclusion of a cottage, Mrs. Smith devoted herself entirely to her children, and to that species of labour by which she could assist them most effectually. She was now in the place of both parents ; and while she saw them healthy and happy, her application to the writing-desk was rather a matter of delight than of complaint, though her health began to suffer considerably.

From 1791 till 1793, her time was occupied in preparing materials, and in the composition of the novels of Celestina, Desmond, and The Old Manor House ; thus, amidst fictitious scenes and ideal beings, seeking to elude for a while the sad realities of life.

The penalties and discouragements attending the profession of an author fall upon women with a double weight ; to the curiosity of the idle and the envy of the malicious their sex affords a peculiar incitement ;

itement; arraigned, not merely as writers, but as *women*, their characters, their conduct, and even their personal endowments, become the subjects of severe inquisition: from the common allowances claimed by the species in general, literary women appear only to be exempted: in detecting their errors and exposing their foibles, malignant ingenuity is active and unwearied—vain would be the hope to shield themselves from detraction; by the severest prudence, or the most entire seclusion: wanton malice, in the failure of facts, amply supplies materials for defamation; while, from the anguish of wounded delicacy, the gratification of demons seems to be extracted. Besides her sharing as a literary woman this general and most unjust persecution, Mrs. Smith individually created enemies by the zeal and perseverance with which she endeavoured to obtain justice for her children, of men who hated her in proportion as they had injured her.

The situation of Mrs. Smith was not likely to exempt her from these disadvantages, to which her sensibility rendered her peculiarly vulnerable: but in the respect and affection of the few who had minds to appreciate her talents, or hearts to sympathise in her unmerited sufferings, she sought and found consolation.

But whatever was the perseverance or the success of Mrs. Smith as an author, the task she had undertaken was, notwithstanding the filial tenderness of her son in India, more than she could execute: Years passed on; but the persons entrusted with the
property

property made no progress in disembarassing the estate of her children's grandfather; they, on the contrary, gave it up to the plunder of West India agents. In the consequent dispersion of her family, she lost the solace and reward of her labours. In September 1793, her third son, who served as an ensign in the twenty-fourth regiment, lost his leg before Dunkirk. Scarcely had she learned to consider with calmness this accident, when a heavier calamity befel her, in the death of her second and most beloved daughter, who expired within two years after her marriage to a man, whose knowledge of her worth rendered the fate of the survivor most deserving of commiseration. "How lovely and how beloved she was. (says her afflicted mother in a letter to a friend), those only who knew her can tell. In the midst of perplexity and distress, till the loss of my child, which fell like the hand of death upon me, I could yet exert my faculties; and, in the consciousness of resource which they afforded to me, experience a sentiment not dissimilar to that of the Medea of Corneille, who replied to the enquiry of her confidant—"where now are your resources?—In myself!

Two years after the death of her daughter, Mrs. Smith was induced, by continued oppression, once more to repair to London, in the hope of rescuing her children from the hands of those who had now held their estate, since 1784, with so little attention to their interest, that it seemed every year to diminish in value.

Wearied and baffled by a series of iniquitous proceedings,

ceedings, and hopeless of redress, she was about to relinquish her efforts, and return to her family, when an unexpected event gave a turn to their affairs. The brother-in-law of Mr. Smith, the claims of whose family had been the principal excuse for the detention of his father's effects, made offers of accommodation, and the compromise was too desirable to be declined; but in a compliance with the terms assistance was necessary. In this dilemma Mrs. Smith stated the situation of the business to a nobleman, whose character derives lustre from the liberality of his mind, rather than from the accidents of fortune and descent. By this gentleman, to whose benevolence her family had been already indebted, and who, acquainted with the circumstances of their oppression, had made previous efforts for their redress, Mrs. Smith was enabled to avail herself of the tendered proposal. Artificial delays protracted the business yet eighteen months; it was at length, with all the certainty of which West India affairs are capable, finally determined, when Mrs. Smith had the satisfaction of seeing her children restored to their rights. In a business thus entangled and complicated, much yet remained to be done, and many years must probably elapse before the remembrance or consequences of past sufferings can be effaced. But, for the consumption of time, the waste of powers, and the ravages of health, who can recompence the mother, whose wounded spirit and broken constitution excite, even now, in the minds of her friends, the most painful solicitude for her valuable life? Who is
he

he, that, with a soul capable of sympathy, or a mind accessible to the charm of genius, will refuse to join in the wish, that in the rectitude of her own heart, in the consciousness of duties performed, in the resources afforded by an improved understanding and a cultivated taste, in the grateful tenderness of her family, and the cordial affection of her friends, this admirable and unfortunate woman may at length find her reward!

Beside the works already described, Mrs. Smith is the author of some other novels, among which, *The Old Manor House* holds a distinguished place. If, in the hurry of composition, interrupted by distracting cares, her style is sometimes negligent, and often diffuse, an elevation of sentiment, a refinement of taste, a feeling, and a delicacy breathe through her productions, which, by moving the affections and engaging the sympathy of the reader, excite in him a lively and permanent interest.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL

SIR RALPH ABERCROMBY.

AMONG the distinguished heroes who have contributed to elevate the glory of the British arms in the late eventful war, the actions of Abercromby will be dwelt upon with peculiar animation by the historian, and will be regarded with pride, admiration, and sympathy by the reader.

The family of Abercromby is very ancient and distinguished
1800-1801. F

distinguished in North-Britain, and possessed of an estate bearing the same name. The father of Sir Ralph had a numerous family, and according to the custom of the country which gave them birth, the sons were destined for active employments.* Each

* Thus we find one of the brothers of Sir Ralph brought up to the law, another to maritime pursuits, and two more to a military life. The senior filled, with great reputation to his character, the honourable office of a Lord of Session, in which he died. The next brother entered into the sea-service of the East-India Company, and made several voyages as a commander of one of their ships, retiring from the fatigues of duty, with a wife he had married in India, and with a considerable fortune. He died in the year 1792; and, to the disappointment of his relations, left almost the whole of his property to his lady, who was married soon after to her solicitor, but survived that connection only a short time. From the nature of her will, the last hope of the Captain's relations was extinguished. The *Conveyancer* had, in one short trip to the land of Matrimony, possessed himself of all which the indefatigable navigator had amassed in his several voyages across the Pacific and Indian oceans. But as no part of the family could be said to be in straitened circumstances, this unexpected event was accompanied with very little regret. So far as concerned the General himself, whose disposition was the reverse of mercenary, the transfer of his brother's property from his family did not lessen, in the smallest degree, the affection he bore his memory. James, a third brother of the General, was killed in America, in the hard-contested battle of Bunker's-hill. He was at the time a lieutenant-colonel in the 22d foot. His surviving brother Robert is not behind him in military rank. He is at this time colonel of the 75th, or Highland regiment, lately stationed at Bombay, the presidency of which derived signal benefits from its Colonel's active zeal and approved skill. His judicious and successful march across a vast extent of country, to effect a junction with the army of Lord Cornwallis at Seringapatam,

of the brothers in his peculiar profession, has been engaged in supporting the State, in some one of its departments or dominions.

The first commission born by Sir Ralph was as cornet of the 3d dragoon guards, into which he entered on the 23d May, 1756. He obtained a lieutenancy in the same regiment on the 19th February, 1760; and continued in this corps till the 24th April, 1762, when he obtained a company in the 3d regiment of horse. In this regiment he rose to the rank of major and lieutenant-colonel; to the former on the 6th June, 1770, and to the latter the 19th May, 1773. In November, 1780, he was included in the list of brevet colonels, and on the 3d of the same month, next year, was made colonel of the 103d, or King's Irish Infantry, a new raised regiment, but which being reduced at the peace in 1783, the colonel was placed on half-pay. On the 28th September, 1787, he was promoted to the rank of major-general, and on the 17th September, 1790, he obtained the command of the 69th regiment of foot, from which, in April, 1792, he was removed to an older corps, viz. the 6th, from which he was again removed, the 5th November, 1795, to the 7th regiment of dragoons.

Sir Ralph was employed on the Continent soon after the present war broke out. On the 25th of April,

patam, in 1792, may be considered as having tended to secure the East-India possessions in the Carnatic against that once restless and aspiring prince, Tippoo Sultan; and well entitled him to succeed as Commander in Chief of his Majesty's and the East-India Company's forces in Bengal.

1793, he had the local rank of lieutenant-general conferred on him; and, although the ultimate issue of those two campaigns afforded but a small portion of glory for the most meritorious officers to emblazon their military escutcheons with, yet Sir Ralph was entitled to a full share. He enjoyed on all occasions not only the esteem, but the confidence, of the Duke of York.

He commanded the advanced-guard in the action on the heights of Cateau, April 16th, 1794. The Duke of York, in his dispatches relative to this affair, makes the following commendatory representation of his conduct: "I have particular obligations to Lieutenant-general Sir William Erskine, as well as to Major-general Abercromby." His Royal Highness further adds, in his dispatches of the 19th of May: "The abilities and coolness with which Lieutenant-general Abercromby and Major-general Fox conducted their different corps, under these trying circumstances, require that I should particularly notice them." The Lieutenant-general was wounded at Nimeguen, the 27th of October following.

No part of the service of this able officer had ever been so painful to him, or called so forcibly upon his humanity and exertion, as the duty he performed when the army retreated from Holland, in the winter of 1794. The Guards, as well as all the sick, were left under his conduct and care, after Lieutenant-general Harcourt had gone into cantonments behind the Ems. His sensibility was as conspicuous as his judgment, in the disastrous march from Deventer to Oldensaal,

Oldensaal, at which last place his corps arrived on the 30th and 31st of January, 1795. This was the first time in the General's life, when his talents could not keep pace with circumstances ; but the incessant harassing of a victorious enemy on the one hand ; bad roads, and the inclemency of the weather on the other, added to the difficulty of procuring shelter for the men, were sufficient to depress the spirits of the bravest, and leave the most sagacious mind without resources.

The affairs in the West-Indies, as left by Sir Charles Grey, had exhibited a less pleasing aspect since that commander's return to England. The French, after their successes nearer home, had made very considerable, and even unexpected exertions to recover their losses abroad. This object they attained to a certain degree ; they repossessed themselves of Guadaloupe and St. Lucia, made good a landing at more than one place on the island of Martinico, and effected partial descents, and hoisted the tri-coloured flag on several forts in the islands of St. Vincent's, Grenada, and Marie-Galante. They possessed themselves of immense booty from the property of the rich emigrants on the several islands, but especially on that of Guadaloupe. On this last only, according to the report made by Fermond to the Committee of Public Safety, the value was estimated at the enormous sum of 1,800 millions of livres.

To stop the ravages thus committing on the British allies, for such the French emigrants were then considered, and to check the depredations on our own colonies,

colonies, a fleet was fitted out in the autumn of 1795, to convey a military force to the West-Indies, sufficient to answer the necessity of the case. To General Sir Ralph Abercromby was given the charge of the troops, and he was appointed Commander in Chief of the forces in the West-Indies. He accordingly repaired to Southampton on the 30th of August, 1795, and took charge of the remainder of the British troops that had been under the command of the Earl of Moira. Sir Ralph was unfortunately detained in that district so long beyond the expected period of his departure, that after the troops had assembled, and were embarked, the equinox set in, and several transports were lost in endeavouring to clear the Channel. Notwithstanding these disasters, and in spite of the lateness of the season, every exertion was made, and the General, with his staff, &c. made the best of their way to the West-Indies.

On his arrival, no time was lost in forming a plan for the operations of the army, and as soon as the season permitted, the troops moved in every quarter. On the 24th of March, a detachment suddenly attacked and obtained possession of the island of Grenada. The General afterwards found no difficulty in obtaining possession of the settlements of Demerara and Issequibo, in the province of Surinam, in South-America.

The Commander in Chief had made the necessary arrangements with the Admiral for conveying the troops destined for an attack upon the island of St. Lucia, and the armament sailed on the 26th of April.

April. The enemy had a garrison in Morne Fortune of nearly 2000 well-disciplined black troops, some hundred whites, and a number of black people who had taken refuge in the fortress. In carrying the battery Seche, within a short distance of the works of Morne Fortune, the difficulties of approach were found greater, from the intricate nature of the country, than were expected. The General was obliged to undertake a laborious communication from Choc Bay to that of Morne, by means of a new road, capable of allowing the transportation of heavy cannon. These difficulties, with numerous other impediments which the enemy threw in the way of the army, he, however, overcame; and upon the evening of the 24th of May, a suspension of arms was desired till noon the next day: a capitulation for the whole island ensued, and on the 26th the garrison, to the amount of 2000 men, marched out, laid down their arms, and became prisoners of war. This capture was followed by that of Pigeon Island.

Brigadier-general Moore being left in quiet possession of St. Lucia, the General hastened the embarkation of the artillery and troops destined to act in St. Vincent's, and by the middle of June, every part of that valuable island was in the hands of the British troops.

The fortunate issue of all these services enabled the Commander in Chief to visit Grenada, where his presence may be supposed to have contributed not a little to conclude the hostilities still carried on under the orders of Major-general Nicholls. Fedon, the

celebrated chief, at the head of the insurgents, was not easily to be overcome; his native courage and acquired talents, added to his fierceness of disposition, had drawn about him a mass of force, partly voluntary, partly constrained. Major-general Nicholls was now ordered to straiten him in his retreat as much as possible, and to grant him no terms short of unconditional submission. The troops were successful every where, and nearly at the same hour, on the morning of the 19th of June, full possession was obtained of every post on the island.

The General having thus effected every thing which could be undertaken against the French, directed his attention to the Spanish island of Trinidad. The arrival of part of a new convoy from England enabled him to undertake this expedition with confidence of success. The precision with which the fleet of ships of war and transports had been assembled, prevented the loss of a moment when the season for operations commenced. On the 16th of February, 1797, the fleet passed through the Bocas, or entrance into the gulph of Paria, where the Spanish Admiral, with four sail of the line, and a frigate, were found at anchor, under cover of the island of Gaspar-Grande, which was fortified. The British squadron worked up, and came to an anchor opposite to, and nearly within gun-shot of the Spanish ships. The frigates and transports anchored higher up the bay. The disposition was made for landing at daylight next morning, and for a general attack upon the town and ships of war. At two o'clock in the morning

morning (the 17th), the Spanish squadron was perceived to be on fire; the ships, except one line of battle, were all consumed, and that which escaped the conflagration was taken possession of by the boats; the enemy at the same time evacuated this quarter of the island. The General's whole attention was now paid to the town. As soon, therefore, as the troops were landed, about five hundred advanced to the westward of it, meeting but little opposition; and before night they were masters of the town of Port d'Espagne, and of the whole neighbourhood, except two small forts. The next morning the governor, Don Chalcon, capitulated, and the whole colony passed under the dominion of his Britannic Majesty.

Thus far our General had succeeded in fulfilling the instructions of his Sovereign. An unsuccessful attempt upon the Spanish island of Porto Rico, concluded his campaign of 1797, in the West-Indies.

If nothing was gained to the country by this last attempt, no loss of reputation in its military character was sustained by the failure; and indeed the manner in which the General was received on his return to Europe, testified the estimation in which his military talents were held by the British government.

On the 2d of November, 1796, while on this service, Sir Ralph (for he had now been invested with a red ribbon), was presented to the second, or North British dragoons, commonly called the *Scots Greys*; and in the same year he was made Lieutenant-governor of the Isle of Wight, and afterwards still further

ther rewarded with the more lucrative governments of Forts George and Augustus. On the 26th of January, 1797, he was raised to the rank of lieutenant general.

The ferment in Ireland threatening every day to break out into a flame, Sir Ralph was not allowed to remain long in a state of repose. He was fixed upon to take the chief command of the forces in that kingdom. He paid great attention to the discipline of the army, and was anxious to restore to the soldiers that reputation which had been sullied by repeated acts of licentiousness. His declaration "that their irregularity and insubordination had rendered them more formidable to their friends than to their enemies," however true, was deemed harsh by some who neither considered the delicacy and responsibility of his situation, nor the danger of military insubordination, by allowing disorders in any army, like those he complained of, to grow by example. The General's removal, however, from his command, was in no respect the effect of dissatisfaction on either side, but the result of an unanimous opinion, that it would be expedient and efficacious to unite the civil and military authority in the same person, the benefits of which had been so obvious in the dominions of the east. In this view of the precedent, it was impossible not to fix upon the Marquis Cornwallis.

From that station he was called to the command of his Majesty's forces in North Britain, and was soon after employed under the Duke of York in the great enterprize against Holland, where, it was universally
allowed,

allowed, that even victory the most decisive could not have more conspicuously proved the talents of this active and intelligent general, than the conduct pursued by him in an arduous struggle against the difficulties of the ground, the inclemency of the season, inconvenient, yet unavoidable delays, the disorderly movements of the Russians, and the timid duplicity of the Dutch.

When it was deemed expedient to send an armament for the purpose of dispossessing the French of Egypt, the command was given, with general approbation, to Sir Ralph Abercromby. The fleet reached its destination on the 1st of March, 1801, but a landing was not effected at Aboukir till the 8th, when a severe battle ensued, in which the English were victors.

On the 12th the French made a general attack upon our army near Alexandria, and, after hard fighting, were again repulsed. But the most memorable battle was on the 21st, when the French again attacked the English with the greatest impetuosity. The contest was unusually obstinate, but at length the French were forced to retreat. In this conflict, Sir Ralph Abercromby received a mortal wound, of which he died on the 28th, and his remains were taken to Malta, and interred with the greatest marks of distinction and regret.

Sir Ralph not only served his country as a warrior, but as a legislator. In 1774 he was chosen representative of the county of Kinross, and continued to sit in the House of Commons till the general election in

1780.

1780. At the general election in 1796, Sir Ralph was again elected for that county.

But Sir Ralph Abercromby ought more immediately to be considered as a soldier. His temper was naturally reserved, and he was extremely silent in mixed society; but was never known to betray the least symptom of haughtiness. Men of merit had easy access to him, and when engaged in any particular enterprize, officers of talents seldom escaped his attention. His conduct, indeed, through life, appears to have been founded on the following remarkable lines written by Frederick the Great.

Dans des honneurs obscurs vous ne vieillerez pas,
Soldats, vous apprendrez à régir de soldats.

LORD DORCHESTER.

THIS veteran soldier is one of the oldest officers in the British army. In the list of generals, of which he stands nearly at the head, not one can be pointed out who has seen more, or a greater variety of service.

He is descended from an ancient family residing many ages at Carleton, in Cumberland, whence the survivors removed into Ireland; of the family, three brothers, who espoused the Royal cause in the 17th century, lost their lives at the battle of Marston-Moor. A fourth, who survived the restoration, was rewarded for his loyalty with the bishopric of Bristol. From this prelate his lordship is directly descended. He was born in the year 1722, and at an early period entered

entered into the Guards, in which corps he continued until the year 1748, when he was promoted to be lieutenant-colonel of the seventy-second regiment.

Upon the breaking out of the seven years war, his professional knowledge was put to an honourable test. In 1758 he embarked with General Amherst for the siege of Louisburgh, where his active exertions obtained him considerable reputation. In the next year he was at the siege of Quebec, under the immortal Wolfe; where his important services did not escape the notice of his superiors. He was singled out as a proper officer, to be detached with an adequate force, to secure a post on the western point of the *Isle d'Orleans*, a service which he effectually performed. Some time after he was again detached to dislodge the French from *Point au Trempe*, twenty miles distant from Quebec, where he was equally successful.

The next service in which Colonel Carleton was engaged, was at the siege of Belleisle, where he acted in the capacity of brigadier-general, having been honoured with that rank on the spot on which he received his first wound from the enemy. The public dispatches of General Hodgson, who commanded on this expedition, spoke in terms highly flattering of the conduct of the brigadier.

In February, 1762, he was promoted to the rank of colonel in the army, and soon afterwards he embarked for the siege of the Havannah. In this arduous enterprize our hero had his full share of honourable toil. On the 10th of June he was detached
from

from the camp into the woods between Coximar and the Moro, with a body of light infantry and grenadiers, who invested the Moro Castle; on the 11th, he carried the Spanish redoubt upon Moro Hill, establishing a post there; but again he had the misfortune to receive a wound. Many officers, however, thought themselves fully compensated for these accidents, and for their incessant fatigues, by the ample sums of prize-money which they shared after their conquest.

The peace which took place after the end of this campaign interrupted the career of this aspiring soldier, and he remained several years without any opportunity of exerting his military talents. He was not, however, altogether idle; when the late General Murray was recalled from Quebec, he was appointed Lieutenant-governor of that province; and when it was determined that the General should not return, he was promoted to the government in his room; and he continued in this station for many years. In 1772 he was advanced to the rank of Major-general in the army, and appointed Colonel of the forty-seventh regiment of foot. In addition to these favours conferred on him by his Sovereign, he had the happiness to receive the hand of Lady Mary Howard, sister to the late Earl of Effingham.

When the contest between Great Britain and the American colonies began to wear a serious aspect, the Ministry called on General Carleton for his advice; and it is supposed that it was upon his suggestions they brought forward the celebrated Quebec Bill.

Bill. During the agitation of this measure in the House of Commons, the General was examined at the bar, and his evidence satisfying both sides of the House of the expediency of the measure, it tended of course to accelerate its adoption.

After the passing of the Quebec Bill, he immediately repaired to his government, and had a difficult task to perform. He had few troops in the province, and one of the first attempts made by the Americans was, with a powerful army, to gain possession of it. They had surprized Ticonderago and Crown Point. General Carleton formed a plan for the recovery of these posts; but for want of British troops, and the cordial co-operation of the Canadians, his design failed. The General had also the mortification to be defeated in the field, and it was not without great difficulty and address that he escaped in a whale-boat into the town of Quebec. Here his energy of mind became conspicuous; being almost destitute of regular troops, he trained the inhabitants to arms, and soon put the place in such a posture of defence as to defeat General Montgomery in his attempt to storm it, although that brave officer led the forlorn hope in person. In the first discharge of a well-directed fire from the British battery, that intrepid American fell, with a considerable number of his men. The assailants, thus deprived of their gallant leader, paused but did not retreat, and they sustained a galling fire for half an hour longer from cannon and musquetry, before they finally withdrew from the attack. Quebec

was

was thus preserved till the arrival of reinforcements from England.

As soon as he had received these, he drove the enemy from his province, and prepared to take revenge for his previous disappointments. For this purpose, he endeavoured to engage the Indians in the English interest ; but from the well-known humanity of his disposition, we have reason to conclude, he never approved of the shocking enormities which they perpetrated when not under his personal observation. He advanced with a powerful army towards the lakes ; to obtain the complete command of which, it became necessary to equip some armed vessels, which had been constructed in England ; but this work took up so much time, that the season was far advanced before they were completed. When this was done, he immediately attacked the American flotilla on Lake Champlain, under the command of General Arnold, and totally defeated it ; but the lateness of the season obliged him to abandon further operations, and to return into Canada for winter quarters.

It was expected that General Carleton would have been employed in the ensuing campaign, but it is believed he declined so hazardous a service, with the small number of troops that were allowed. The fate of General Burgoyne, under that foreseen disadvantage, justified General Carleton's refusal. On Burgoyne's arrival to supersede him, General Carleton evinced no censurable jealousy ; on the contrary, he exerted himself to the utmost, to enable his succes-

sort to take the field to advantage. He then resigned his government to General Haldimand, and returned to England, where his merit, in so ably and effectually defending Quebec, procured him a red ribbon.

In 1781 he was appointed to succeed Sir Henry Clinton as Commander in Chief in America, and on his arrival at New-York; he began and completed many excellent reforms. He broke up the band of American Loyalists, whose conduct had given umbrage to the well-disposed. He checked the profuse and useless expenditure of money in several departments, and restrained the rapacity of the commissaries; he has the credit also of having done every thing in his power to soften the rigours of war, and to conciliate the minds of the Americans. In this situation he continued until peace was established between the two countries, when, after an interview with General Washington, he evacuated New-York, and returned to England.

During his residence in London, before his last appointment, he acted as one of the commissioners of public accounts. He retained the command of the 47th regiment of foot until 1790, when he was promoted to that of the 15th dragoons, which he now holds.

It having been resolved to put the British possessions in North America under the direction of a Governor-general, Sir Guy Carleton, now created Lord Dorchester, was appointed to that powerful and important office, having under his authority all the northern settlements, except Newfoundland. In this

situation and government he remained several years, still acquiring fresh reputation.*

Lord Dorchester now resides in England, and from his advanced age, it is not probable he will return again to the severe and inhospitable climate of Canada.

EARL STANHOPE.

CHARLES Earl Stanhope, the second son of Philip the late Earl, by Grizel Hamilton, granddaughter to Thomas Earl of Haddington, of Scotland, was born August the 3d, 1753. This nobleman celebrated for his exertions and ardour in the cause of public liberty, is distinguished also for his descent from ancestors as eminent for patriotism as for their high rank and extraordinary abilities. It will not, therefore, it is presumed, be unacceptable to the public, if in this place we communicate a few particulars relating to the two first Earls of this family.

James Earl Stanhope, descended from a very ancient family in the county of Nottingham, was born in 1673. He entered, at an early period of his life, into the army, and served under King William in the war against France; during which, and particularly

* The Duc de la Rochefoucault Liancourt, during his travels in North America, had no reason to be in good humour with the Governor-general, who prohibited his entrance into Lower Canada, yet he more than once describes him as a worthy man, and admits that his administration has throughout been marked with mildness and justice. See *Travels in North America*, vol. i. page 546, 569.

at the siege of Namur, he distinguished himself so much to the King's satisfaction, as to receive from his Majesty a company of foot, and soon after a commission as colonel of the 33d regiment. In the war which was undertaken for the purpose of placing Charles, the second son of the Emperor Leopold, on the throne of Spain, Colonel Stanhope, while commanding a regiment of foot at Porta Legra, in Portugal, was surrounded by King Philip's army, and he and his whole regiment were made prisoners of war. He was promoted to the rank of Brigadier-general in the year 1705, and in the next campaign he gained very considerable reputation at the siege of Barcelona, under the command of Lord Peterborough.

General Stanhope planned and completed the conquest of Minorca in 1708. Having landed on the island about ten miles from St. Philip's fort, on the 26th of August, with three thousand men, the General caused batteries to be erected, and ordered a number of arrows to be shot into the place, to which papers were affixed, written in the Spanish and French languages, containing threats that the whole garrison should be sent to the mines if they did not immediately surrender. The garrison consisted of sixteen hundred men, commanded by Colonel la Jonquiere. So artfully had General Stanhope drawn up his men, as to impress the minds of the enemy with the idea that they were besieged by an army of at least ten thousand soldiers. This stratagem had the desired effect. On the third day the garrison capitulated, and so completely mortified was the Spanish Gover-

nor, when he learned the real number of the besiegers, that he threw himself out of a window, in despair, and was killed on the spot. La Jonquiere was imprisoned for life, and the other French officers incurred their Monarch's displeasure.

In 1710, General Stanhope headed the allied troops, killed the Spanish commander with his own hand, and placed the victorious banners of England upon the walls of Madrid: but before the end of the same year the General experienced a reverse of fortune, and he together with two thousand choice British troops were made prisoners of war at the small town of Brihuega. On this account he afterwards incurred the censure of the House of Lords.

Soon after the accession of King George the First, General Stanhope was appointed one of the principal Secretaries of State, and a member of the Privy Council. He was also employed in several highly important foreign negotiations. In the year 1717, he was appointed First Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer. A short time after he had attained to these distinguished offices, he was created a Peer of Great Britain. On the thirteenth of December, 1718, Earl Stanhope brought into the House of Peers a bill for the repeal of some clauses in the Corporation and Test Acts, which, after a violent opposition from the Tory Lords and the Bench of Bishops, was, with some small alterations, carried through both Houses of Parliament, and received the royal sanction. This nobleman, distinguished as a general, statesman,
and

and senator, died in the year 1720, deeply regretted by the King, whose favourite minister he had been, and highly respected by the nation, for whose interests he had ever manifested an indefatigable and truly disinterested zeal.

Lord Stanhope was succeeded in his titles by Philip the late Earl, who, being but seven years of age, was, by the will of his father, confided to the guardianship of Philip Dormer, the celebrated Earl of Chesterfield. This nobleman, strongly attached to the study of the belles-lettres, and what is usually denominated polite learning, conceived every other species of knowledge of inferior or even trifling value, and absolutely prohibited his young relation and ward from the pursuits of mathematical studies, for which he appeared to have a natural and strong bias. Notwithstanding this injunction, which, to say the least, reflected no honour either on the head or the heart of Lord Chesterfield, when the young Lord advanced to more mature years, he applied himself to his favourite study with so much avidity, as to become one of the first mathematicians of the age. His predilection, however, for the sciences, properly so called, did not prevent him from attaining the most profound and extensive knowledge of the classics. At no very advanced period of his life he was a complete master of the Latin and Greek languages, and could, without the smallest hesitation, repeat the whole of the Iliad and the Odyssey of Homer in the original language; he diligently cultivated an acquaintance with the poets and histo-

rians of antiquity through the whole of his life, spending several hours of each day either in classical reading, or in the investigation of theorems in the higher and more sublime branches of geometry. Lord Stanhope acquired also a complete knowledge of many modern languages, in which he could maintain a conversation with as much ease and fluency as if they had been his vernacular tongue.

A person so formed for the pursuits of literature, in all its various branches, would, it may be easily supposed, have no great ambition to be distinguished as a politician or a statesman. His Lordship, indeed, seldom attended his place in the House of Peers, except on occasions when he conceived himself called upon by the obligations of duty which he owed to his country. In the year 1742 we find him in his place in the Senate, when the several estimates of the expence occasioned by foreign troops in the pay of Great Britain were taken into consideration. His Lordship then, at the close of an elegant and pathetic speech, moved for an addres to beseech and advise his Majesty, "that, in compassion to his
"people, loaded already with such numerous and
"heavy taxes, such large and growing debts, and
"greater annual expences than the nation at any
"time before had ever sustained, he would exonerate his subjects of the charge and burthen of
"those mercenaries who were taken into the service
"last year without the advice or consent of Parliament."

Earl Stanhope's name is likewise enrolled among
those

those of many other patriotic noblemen in several protests against measures which appeared to his mind hostile to the constitution of his country, and to the real interests of public liberty. Perhaps no man ever lived who possessed sounder principles, and a more inflexible integrity than his Lordship. It was either in the earlier attempts made by the British administration to subjugate America, or on the question of the Middlesex election, that this nobleman travelled from Geneva, where he had resided for several years, to give his voice against the measure, and finding his exertions of no avail, he soon after returned to the continent, to enjoy domestic privacy among his family and books. At this period his Lordship, whose dress always corresponded to the simplicity of his manners, was once prevented from going into the House of Peers by a door-keeper, who was unacquainted with his person. Lord Stanhope persisted in endeavouring to get into the House without thinking to explain who he was; and the door-keeper, determined also on his part, made use of these words; "Honest man, you have no business here—*Honest man, you can have no business in this place.*"

In the year 1774 Earl Stanhope took his leave of Geneva, where he had spent about ten years, greatly respected and beloved by all who had the honour of his acquaintance. His Lordship's extensive hospitality and beneficence are still remembered with affection and gratitude, not only by the inhabitants of that small republic, but by many of his

own countrymen who visited Geneva in their foreign travels.

From this period, we believe, his Lordship took but a small share in the public transactions of his country. He divided his time between his town residence and his seat at Cheyening in Kent, devoting himself closely for several hours in the day to classical and mathematical studies, which had long become his habitual amusement.

It is much to be regretted that learning so profound, and talents so rare, should have been applied almost entirely to his own gratification, and that he did not consecrate part of his time to the publication of the result of those researches which had engaged his attention for more than half a century. To his Lordship's munificence, however, the public are indebted for the posthumous works of Dr. Robert Simson, which were printed at his own expence, and a copy of which he sent to every learned society in Europe, as well as to all the most distinguished mathematicians both of his own and foreign countries. It appears likewise that Dr. Simson was indebted to this nobleman for the ninety-eighth proposition of Euclid's data. To him also the public are under considerable obligations for the most complete and magnificent edition of the works of Archimedes, which were prepared for the press by the learned Joseph Torelli, of Verona, and printed in the year 1792 at the Clarendon press, Oxford.

From the circumstances of many valuable works of science being dedicated to his Lordship, among which

which were Dodson's Logarithms, and the third volume of Dr. Priestley's Experiments on Air and other branches of Natural Philosophy, we may infer that he was the liberal patron of several learned men.

Philip Earl Stanhope died March 7, 1786, leaving behind him a son, whose public character we are now to delineate; and a widow, who, at a very advanced age, is still living in the enjoyment of health and unimpaired faculties, and much of whose time is devoted to acts of benevolence, and to the perusal of the best modern authors in the English and French languages. That she may yet long continue in the exercise of these duties and amusements must be the prayer of all who know her.

His Lordship's eldest son Philip, died July 6th, 1763, he was succeeded in his estates and titles by Charles, the present Earl Stanhope, who, when he had scarcely attained to eight years of age, was sent to Eton school, where he had not resided two years before the health of his elder brother rendered a change of climate expedient. His noble parents sought at Geneva the recovery of their son, of which there were no hopes if he remained in England. Thither the whole family repaired, and were scarcely settled in, perhaps, the finest situation in Europe, when the death of a beloved son damped their joys, and forbade their tasting those delights which flattering but deceitful hope had led them almost to anticipate. Thus the grand object of their journey was defeated. Conceiving, however, the climate of Great Britain to have been inauspicious to the rearing of one child,
the

the noble Lord formed the resolution of educating his remaining heir in a more southern country. Upon the present venerable and learned M. le Sage of Geneva devolved, in a great measure, the education of Lord Mahon, which was the title he succeeded to upon the death of his brother. His Lordship is frequently heard to mention the name of his preceptor with considerable respect. He even goes so far as to pronounce M. le Sage the most learned man in Europe; to this, however, the public will never assent, till they are in possession of more facts than those with which this philosopher has furnished them.*

During his Lordship's residence at Geneva, it does not appear that he at any time applied himself to classical studies; and his noble relation, Lord Chesterfield, could not conceive a meaner opinion of mathematical learning than the present Earl Stanhope possesses for the knowledge to be obtained by the study of the dead languages.

He did not, however, waste his time in indolence, nor consume it in those fashionable follies to which persons of his rank frequently think themselves almost exclusively entitled. He was ever devoted to

* M. Le Sage has, we believe, never published any work excepting a small tract, the object of which is to account for the cause of gravity, but which is very far from being a satisfactory solution of the difficulty in which the subject is involved.

This tract was first published in the French or Berlin Transactions, and afterwards was separately re-printed.

experimental

experimental philosophy, and at the age of seventeen or eighteen, he was the successful candidate for a prize, offered by the Swedish Society of Arts and Sciences to the person who should produce the best treatise on the structure of the pendulum. His Lordship's essay delivered on the occasion was written in the French language, and was afterwards published in some foreign transactions. It has never been translated or printed in English.

Lord Mahon distinguished himself also in a very high degree in a variety of athletic and equestrian exercises. He enrolled himself in the Genevois militia, and became so expert a marksman, that with a rifle-barrelled gun he could, at the proper distance, hit any given space of the size of a shilling for several successive times, with almost undeviating certainty: this talent his Lordship is said still to possess.

Geneva, at this period, was very much frequented by the English; and though in general they were on friendly and even sociable terms with the citizens of that small republic, yet they never were so completely united as at this time, which was ascribed principally to the popularity deservedly enjoyed by Earl Stanhope's family. No one of our young countrymen ever possessed more, or perhaps even so much, of the confidence of the Genevois as Lord Mahon: he joined with alacrity in all their amusements; he entered with spirit and zeal into all their military exercises, and excelled most of the natives in the dexterity of the evolutions; and he attached himself to what

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was esteemed the popular political party.* To all this may be added, the hospitality, generosity, and benevolence, uniformly manifested to all ranks of people by the noble parents of this young man.

It is scarcely necessary to add, that no family was ever more regretted than this when they took a final farewell of Geneva. "I saw them," says Dr. Moore, "leave the place; their carriage could with difficulty move through the multitude who were assembled in the streets. Numbers of the poorer sort, who had been relieved by their secret charity, unable longer to obey the injunctions of their benefactors, proclaimed their gratitude. The young gentleman (Lord Mahon) was obliged to come out again and again to his old friends and companions, who pressed around the coach to bid him farewell, and express their sorrow for his departure, and their wishes for his prosperity. The eyes of the parents overflowed with tears of happiness; and the whole family carried along with them the af-

* The following anecdote, related by Dr. Moore, is generally understood as applying to Lord Mahon:

"Walking (in Geneva) one afternoon with a young nobleman, who to a strong taste for natural philosophy unites a passionate zeal for civil liberty, we passed near the gardens in which one of those circles which support the magistracy assemble. I proposed joining them: "No," said my Lord with indignation, "I will not go for a moment into such a society. I consider these men as the enemies of their country, and that place as a focus for consuming freedom."

See View of Society and Manners in France, &c.

"factions

“ fections of the greater part, and the esteem of all
“ the citizens.”

At the general election which happened in the autumn of 1774, we find Lord Mahon again in his native country, offering himself, in conjunction with Lord Mountmorres, as candidate to represent the city of Westminster in Parliament. After the poll had been continued for several days, the two noble Lords declined the contest in favour of their competitors.

In the course of the next year his Lordship published a small tract, entitled, “ Considerations on the Means of preventing fraudulent Practices on the Gold Coin.” The object of this tract was to recommend certain methods of coinage, by which an imitation would be rendered exceedingly difficult, and even impossible to any but the most skilful and ingenious workmen : and his Lordship supposed it would not be worth the while of such persons to expose themselves to the severe punishments that are inflicted upon people convicted of coining. It is evident, however, that this opinion was exceedingly erroneous, since no set of men in this country ever possessed more talents and ingenuity than those who have adopted the various methods of forgery as the means of support. To the little state of Geneva, where it appears that this work was written, and where a detection of public crimes was comparatively easy, the reasoning contained in this work was much better adapted than to the metropolis of Great Britain, where men are found embarking in these
fraudulent

fraudulent practices, who, with the exertion of half their talents and labour, might live with the greatest respectability to themselves, and usefulness to their country.

During the year 1777, Lord Mahon instituted a variety of experiments for the purpose of ascertaining the best and cheapest methods of securing buildings from the effects of fire.* The plan adopted by

* For a practical account of the manner adopted by Lord Mahon, to secure buildings from damage by fire, we must refer to the Philosophical Transactions for the year 1778, or the twenty-second volume of Dodsley's Annual Register. We shall, however, insert in this place two or three concluding paragraphs of his Lordship's paper:

“ On the 26th of September, 1777, I had the honour to repeat some of my experiments before the President and some of the Fellows of the Royal Society, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London, the Committee of City Lands, several of the Foreign Ministers, and a great number of other persons.

“ The first experiment was to fill the lower room of a wooden building (which room was about twenty-six feet long by sixteen wide) full of shavings and faggots mixed with combustibles, and to set them all on fire. The heat was so intense, that the glass of the windows was melted like so much common sealing-wax, and ran down in drops, yet the flooring boards of that very room were not burnt through, nor was one of the side timbers, floor joists, or ceiling joists, damaged in the smallest degree; and the persons who went into the room, immediately over the room filled with fire, did not perceive any ill effects from it whatever, even the floor of that room being perfectly cool during the enormous conflagration immediately underneath.

“ I then caused a kind of wooden building of full fifty feet in length, and of three stories high in the middle, to be erected

“ close

his Lordship may be considered as an improvement upon Mr. Hartley's method by means of iron plates, both on account of its durability and cheapness. They both depend on the same principle, which is as simple as it is certain in its effects, viz. that where there is no current of air, there can be no fire: this principle is well illustrated by means of the following Experiment.

Take a narrow slip of paper about an inch wide, hold it very tight round a common poker, so that no air can be admitted between the paper and poker,

“ close to one end of the secured wooden house. I filled and
 “ covered this building with above eleven hundred large kiln fag-
 “ gots, and several loads of dry shavings; and I set this pile on
 “ fire. The height of the flame was no less than eighty-seven
 “ feet perpendicular from the ground, and the grass upon the
 “ bank, at a hundred and fifty feet from the fire, was scorched
 “ up; yet the secured wooden building, contiguous to this vast
 “ heap of fire, was not damaged in the least, excepting some
 “ parts of the outer coat of plaster-work. This experiment was
 “ intended to represent a wooden town on fire, and to show how
 “ effectually even a wooden building, if secured according to my
 “ new method, would stop the progress of the flames on that side,
 “ without any assistance from fire-engines, &c.

“ The last experiment I made that day was the attempting to
 “ burn a wooden stair-case, secured according to my simple me-
 “ thod of *under-flooring*. Several very large kiln faggots were
 “ laid and kindled under the stair-case round the stairs, and upon
 “ the steps; this wooden stair-case notwithstanding resisted, as
 “ if it had been of fire-stone, all the attempts that were made to
 “ consume it. I have since made five other still stronger fires
 “ upon this same stair-case, without having repaired it, having,
 “ moreover, filled the small space in which this stair-case is, en-
 “ tirely with shavings and large faggots; but the stair-case is,
 “ however, still standing, and is but little damaged.”

and

and in that position you may apply the flame of a candle to the paper for any length of time, without the smallest danger of setting it on fire. If, during the experiment, the paper become loose, so as to admit the air between it and the iron, it will be instantly inflamed.

The experiments made by his Lordship at Chevening, in Kent, of which there were more than two thousand witnesses, were conducted on a very extensive scale, and carried with them an irresistible evidence to every spectator. We know upon good authority, that in an upper room Lord Mahon, Mr. Pitt, Lord Chatham, the Lord Mayor of London, the President of the Royal Society, and many other persons, were enjoying the luxury of ice-creams during the time while the most intense fire that could be made was raging in the room directly under it, and separated from it only by a common wooden floor secured upon his Lordship's plan.

About three years since his Lordship's method was put to the test by a fire which broke out in the unsecured offices belonging to Chevening House. Perhaps no fire ever raged with greater fury till it approached that part of the building which had been made fire-proof; and there its progress was stopped. A part of a beam which exhibits the effects of the securing composition is preserved at Chevening; the other part was deposited in the archives of the Royal Society.

It will be proper in this place to mention some other inventions of his Lordship, which are considered

dered by him as of considerable importance in the practical art of building.

His method of burning lime must be first noticed. The operation is performed in a kiln of a structure not very dissimilar to that of a wind furnace. The heat obtained in this way is so great as, in some measure, to vitrify the lime. Lime thus burnt makes a mortar much more durable than that which is commonly used, and the hardness of which is so great, when completely dry, as effectually to resist any pointed instrument. His Lordship believes that this mortar possesses all the properties of the cement of the ancients.

Another invention of which Lord Stanhope has now had the experience of twenty years, is a method of covering roofs with a composition made of tar, chalk, and fine well-washed sand. By making use of this composition instead of slates or tiles, the roof of the house may be constructed almost flat, which renders the attic chambers in every respect as good as the rooms in the other parts of the house. Lord Stanhope has ascertained, that on this plan less timber is used in any given roof than what is necessary in the common mode of building.

His Lordship makes use of a composition of tar and pounded chalk for covering the wounds made in trees by the breaking of branches, &c. This is probably far superior to Mr. Forsyth's invention, for which he received a parliamentary reward.

In the year 1779, Lord Mahon published a thin quarto volume, entitled, "*Principles of Electricity*," &c.

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This publication was occasioned by the dispute which at that time engaged the attention of the principal electricians of this country, respecting the best mode of securing buildings from the effects of lightning. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Nairne were the chief opponents in the discussion, the former giving an uniform preference to short conductors terminating in a ball; and the latter was a disciple of Dr. Franklin, and an advocate for long pointed conductors. The experiments on both sides of the question were made with a grand and expensive apparatus, and the result of the investigation was generally allowed to be in favour of the Franklinian theory.

Lord Mahon avowed himself on that side of the question which Mr. Nairne had espoused, and undertook to confirm and elucidate the theory by a number of experiments, many of which were new and original.* An account of these experiments his

* "For the sake of those persons who care but little about the detail of the theory of electricity, but who, notwithstanding, may be extremely interested in the knowledge of the best method of securing buildings against the damage of lightning, his Lordship mentions the following necessary requisites in erecting conductors. 1. The rods must be made of such substances as are in their nature the best conductors of electricity. 2. They must be uninterrupted and perfectly continuous. 3. They must be of a sufficient thickness. 4. They must be connected with the common stock, that is, with the earth or nearest water. 5. The upper extremity of the rods must be finely tapered and as acutely pointed as possible: *gold* wires are the best points, as they will not rust. 6. The rods must be very prominent, several feet above the chimneys. 7 Each rod must be carried in the *shortest* convenient direction from its upper
"end

Lordship has amply detailed in the work before us. He has also proved by an elaborate mathematical demonstration, illustrated by a great variety of experiments, that the density of an electrical atmosphere superinduced upon any body, must be inversely as the squares of the distances from the charged body.

He has likewise taken great pains to prove the existence and explain the nature of what he denominates the *returning-stroke* in electricity, which is the effect produced by the return of the electric fire into a body from which, under certain circumstances, it has been previously expelled. His Lordship shews, that men and other animals may be destroyed, and buildings damaged, by an electrical returning-stroke occasioned by a thunder-cloud, even at the distance of two or three miles or more from the spot where such persons or buildings are situated. This new theory, advanced and published by Lord Mahon in the year 1779, he considered as completely established by the death of James Lauder, and two horses, who were instantaneously killed in Scotland by the effects of a thunder-storm, which was evidently at a considerable distance from the spot where the fatal accident happened. A very interesting account of this melancholy fact was drawn up by Patrick Bry-

“ end to the common stock. 8. There should be no prominent
 “ bodies of metal on the top of the building proposed to be se-
 “ cured, but such as are connected with the conductor by some
 “ proper metallic communication. 9. There should be a suffi-
 “ cient number of these rods substantially erected, that is, the
 “ number should be in proportion to the extent of the building.”

See *Principles of Electricity*, p. 205.

done, Esq. and published in the 77th vol. of the Philosophical Transactions.

A short time after the reading of Mr. Brydone's account, his Lordship presented to the Royal Society a paper entitled, "*Remarks on Mr. Brydone's Account of a remarkable Thunder-storm in Scotland.*" In this paper he endeavours to account for the various phenomena observed during the storm; he shews that Lauder's death could not be occasioned by any *direct* explosion, nor by that effect which electricians denominate a *lateral* explosion: and, after a full examination of the case, he concludes, that the accident must be attributed solely to the effect which he had in his original work denominated the electrical returning-stroke.*

* "Wonderful," says his Lordship, "as these combined facts may appear, and uncommon as they certainly are in this country, they are, nevertheless, easy to be explained by means of that particular species of electrical shock which I have distinguished in my Principles of Electricity, (published in 1779) by the appellation of the *electrical returning-stroke*; and, although at the time I wrote that treatise, I had it not in my power to produce any instance of persons or animals having been killed in the very peculiar manner since related in Mr. Brydone's paper, I did, however, (from my experiments mentioned in that book) venture to assert with confidence, that if persons be strongly superinduced by the electrical atmosphere of a cloud, they may (under circumstances similar to those explained in that treatise) receive a strong shock, be knocked down, or even killed, at the instant that the cloud discharges with an explosion, its electricity; whether the lightning falls near the very place where those persons are, or at a very considerable distance from that place, or whether the cloud be positively or negatively electrified." See *Phil. Trans.* vol. 77.

About

About this period we find Lord Mahon taking a very active part with those gentlemen who were pursuing measures in order to obtain a Reform in the Representation of the Commons House of Parliament. He was chosen one of the deputies for the county of Kent, and Chairman of the Kentish Committee, and was on this subject in the habit of constant correspondence with the Rev. Mr. Wyvill, one of the Deputies for Yorkshire, and the great promoter of an object which, if it had been successful, might have been of the greatest consequence to these kingdoms.* At a county meeting held at Maid-

* The following letter will exhibit the temper and spirit with which his Lordship pursued this grand national object of reform :

Letter from Viscount Mahon to the Rev. C. Wyvill.

Harley-street, Oct. 23, 1780.

MY DEAR SIR,

I send you herewith the unanimous resolutions of our Kentish committee, which I trust will meet with your approbation, and with that of your respectable committee of the county of York, to whom I beg you will have the goodness to present these resolves.

Our committee wish to prevent, as much as possible, *unnecessary procrastination*; and are, at the same time, truly anxious to shew, in the most decided and public manner, their high respect for the great and meritorious county of York, and their strong desire of *co-operating* with the valuable Sir George Saville, one of their representatives in Parliament, in the promoting of the important and necessary object of equalizing and purifying the Representation, by adding to the House of Commons at least one hundred county members.

I have the honour to be, &c.

MAHON, *Chairman.*

P. S. We shall certainly be very strong in this new Parliament.

stone, his Lordship moved, " That it be strongly
 " recommended to all noblemen, gentlemen, yeo-
 " men, freeholders, and householders, in the county
 " of Kent, to provide themselves with a good musket
 " and bayonet, for the purpose of strengthening the
 " civil power, and to act, according to law, in main-
 " taining the peace of the said county, so that good
 " order may, without the aid or interposition of any
 " military force, be effectually preserved within the
 " same." The necessity of such a regulation having
 been lately manifested in the alarming riots which
 had happened in the metropolis but a month preced-
 ing this meeting, the motion was carried by a con-
 siderable majority.

Soon after this Lord Mahon was, by the influence
 of the Earl of Shelburne, elected Member of Parlia-
 ment for the borough of Wycombe. He joined the
 Opposition in their efforts to put an end to the Ame-
 rican war ; and though at the time when his Lord-
 ship took his seat in Parliament, the phalanx in op-
 position was more respectable for talent than for
 numbers, yet the contest, which had ever been held
 in abhorrence by the enlightened part of the coun-
 try, was now becoming daily more and more odious to

For God's sake, my dear Sir, let us be well aware of *even seeming*
 to concede any farther, either in respect of matter, manner, or
 time. We shall lose *all* by *procrastination*, for, to use the late
 Earl of Chatham's expression on this subject, *We have taken*
possession of strong ground, let who will decline to follow us. Nothing
 but firmness can procure us the united support of Opposition.
See Weyill's Political Papers, vol. i. p. 275.

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the great body of the people. Lord Mahon, though a constant and assiduous attendant upon his duty, did not take a very active part as a speaker. He never failed to be present when the cause of American liberty and independence was to be discussed, and to give the support which attached to his vote, though perhaps he was too much awed by the powerful eloquence and splendid talents of the minority to think it necessary for him often to claim the attention of the House.

From the year 1783 till the period of his father's death in 1786, when he took his seat in the House of Peers, under the title of Earl Stanhope, he made a variety of unsuccessful attempts to prevent bribery, corruption, and unnecessary expences at elections for members of Parliament, rightly judging, that by putting it in the power of independent country gentlemen of moderate estates to offer themselves as representatives of the people, a gradual reform would introduce itself into Parliament, by measures that could not tend to alarm those who were carried away by the dread of innovation. In these attempts his Lordship was countenanced by the Minister, Mr. Pitt, with whom he generally acted, but not with that zeal which was expected from the avowed promoter of reform.

Early in the year 1786 we find Mr. Pitt, with whom Lord Stanhope was in habits of strict intimacy, professing great eagerness in erecting a pillar of perpetual remembrance to his own fame, by concerting effectual measures for annihilating the national debt.

To the late excellent Dr. Price the Minister applied for assistance on a subject to which the Doctor had devoted many years of his valuable life.

Dr. Price communicated to Mr. Pitt three plans, of which we are informed by Mr. Morgan,* the latter, and by far the most inefficient, was finally adopted by the Minister, and received the sanction of Parliament. To this plan, Lord Stanhope gave a steady and avowed opposition, the motives for which, together with a plan of his own, he explained and enforced in a quarto pamphlet entitled, "*Observations on Mr. Pitt's Plan for the Reduction of the National Debt.*"

In this work he exposed the weakness and inefficiency of the mode adopted by the Minister. He then discussed the plan suggested to the House of Commons by Mr. Fox, and afterwards laid before the public a scheme of his own, founded upon certain *axioms* assumed by his Lordship.

The main butt of Lord Stanhope's scheme was the conversion of the 3 per cent. stock into a stock that should bear 4 per cent. interest; or, in other words, that the holders of the 3 per cents. should, for every 400l. of that stock, receive in lieu thereof 300l. stock bearing 4 per cent.† To his Lordship's work are

* See a review of Dr. Price's writings on the subject of the finances of this kingdom, &c. &c. By William Morgan, F. R. S. 1792.

† Lord Stanhope concludes this work by shewing that the method adopted by the Minister will not answer any one definition of a *good* plan for the redemption of the national debt, "A plan,"

subjoined, by way of appendices, several tables, founded upon calculations, upon the accuracy of which he was enabled to confide, having them all made under his own inspection, and *proving* the truth of each separate result by means of an arithmetical machine invented by himself.

says his Lordship, “ which neither pays off much debt in time of peace, nor insures its being redeemed in time of war, is a plan to delude the public. And the present Minister, who does not mean to delude the public, does evidently delude himself. He thinks, no doubt, that his plan for redeeming the national debt is to save the nation ; and if it be well managed, it unquestionably may save it. But if it be conducted in the way proposed by the bill now before the House of Commons, we shall neither profit by the peace nor be prepared for war. We may let slip the present favourable opportunity of restoring our finances, and such an opportunity may perhaps never present itself again. Mr. Pitt’s plan, for the reasons I have assigned above, may be the means of involving us in wars in which we might otherwise never be engaged. And those new wars may accumulate such a load of new debt upon the nation, that, even when another peace shall come, the people may not be able to bear the enormous weight of additional taxes which it would then be necessary to lay, in order to provide another sinking fund. Mr. Pitt’s project, therefore, may bring ruin upon this country. But I sincerely hope and trust, that it will be altered by Parliament. Nay, I am even sanguine enough to hope that the Minister himself will re-consider his first opinion, and that he will, with a candour that would do him everlasting honour, adopt either the specific plan which I have proposed, or some other plan which shall be founded on those leading principles which I have laid down above, and without which it will evidently be impossible for him to accomplish the great and desirable object so clearly pointed out in the preamble of his own bill.”

Of

Of Lord Stanhope's arithmetical machines it may be proper to say something in this place, though it is believed they were invented and made about the year 1777.

The first and smallest machine is about the size of an octavo volume, which, by means of dial-plates and small indices, moveable with a steel pin, is calculated to perform with undeviating accuracy the operations of simple and compound addition and subtraction. The second, and by far the most curious machine, is not more than half the size of a common table writing desk. By this, problems in multiplication and division, of almost any extent, are solved, without the possibility of a mistake, by the simple revolution of a small winch. What appears very singular and surprising to every spectator of this machine, is, that in working division, if the operator be inattentive to his business, and thereby attempts to turn the handle a single revolution more than he ought, he is instantly admonished of his error by the sudden springing up of a small ivory ball.*

* Since the above description of Lord Stanhope's arithmetical machines was written, an old but very curious little book has fallen into the hands of the writer of this article. It is entitled, "The Description and Use of two Arithmetic Instruments: together with a short Treatise explaining and demonstrating the ordinary Operations of Arithmetic, &c. &c. Presented to his most excellent Majesty, Charles II. By S. Morland, 1662." This work is illustrated with twelve plates, in which the different parts of the machines are exhibited, and whence it appears that the four fundamental rules in arithmetic are easily worked, and, to use the author's own words, "without charging the memory, "disturbing

During the illness of his Majesty, at the latter end of the year 1788, when the subject of a regency was discussed, Lord Stanhope gave a very decided support to the measures of Administration. He contended, that the two Houses of Parliament had a right and power, in case of a vacancy of the throne, or the interruption of the personal exercise of the royal authority, to make provision to supply the deficiency. His Lordship supported his reasoning by a reference to the conditions on which the Prince of Orange and the Princess Mary had accepted the crown; and likewise to the method by which the Hanover family ascended the throne of these realms.

Amidst the discussions which took place on this occasion, and which were carried on with the greatest violence and acrimony, while one party was eager in maintaining the rights of the Prince of Wales, and the other was equally zealous in ascribing unlimited powers to the two Houses, Lord Stanhope did not forget that all just and legitimate authority could be derived only from the people.

After a speech from the Duke of York, which contained some admirable and truly patriotic sentiments, perfectly congenial with the constitution of the country, Lord Stanhope made an effort to have those sen-

“disturbing the mind, or exposing the operations to any uncertainty.”

From an advertisement affixed to Mr. Morland's work, it appears that these instruments were, at that period, manufactured for sale by Humphrey Adamson, who resided with Sir Jonas Moore in the Tower of London.

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timents recorded, observing, " that the communication was too important to be suffered to remain in fleeting words, which could not be handed down to posterity to grasp and quote as a proof of the existence of an essential part of the constitution."*

On the 17th of February, 1789, a bill was brought into the House of Lords, entitled, " An Act to provide for the care of his Majesty's royal person, and for the administration of the royal authority during the continuance of his Majesty's illness." In this bill was a clause restraining the Regent from giving his assent to any bill or bills for repealing the act of uniformity. Lord Stanhope on this occasion, in a speech of considerable length, manifested his attention to, and knowledge of all the various statutes

* The following is an extract from his Royal Highness's speech, as reported in the Parliamentary Debates. " He entirely agreed with the noble Lords who had expressed their wishes to avoid any question which tended to induce a discussion on the rights of the Prince of Wales. The fact was plain, that no such claim of right had been made on the part of the Prince; and he was too confident that his Royal Highness understood too well the sacred principles which seated the house of Brunswick on the throne of Great Britain, ever to assume or exercise any power, be his claim what it might, not derived from the will of the people, expressed by their representatives and by their Lordships in Parliament assembled. Such, he said, were the sentiments of an honest heart, equally influenced by duty and affection to his Royal Father, and by attachment to the constitutional rights of his subjects; and he was confident, that if his Royal Brother were to address them, in his place, as a Peer of the Realm, these were the sentiments which he would distinctly avow." See *Debrett's Parliamentary Register*, vol. 26. p. 28.

which

which still exist in full force against persons who dissent from the established religion of the country. He commented, with great severity, intermixed with some ridicule and pleasantry, upon the cruelty, absurdity, and contrariety of these laws, shewing at the same time, that they had been passed in the days of darkness and ignorance, by persons who had as little regard for religion as humanity. Some of them, he undertook to prove, contained rank blasphemy; and, after quoting the authorities of the late Earls of Chatham and Mansfield, who, though known to have acted on very different principles on most questions of a public important nature, cordially agreed on the subject of religious toleration, he moved an amendment, to prevent any new difficulty being placed, by the regency bill, in the way of the repeal of the Test Act. This amendment was opposed by the Bishops and lost.

We find Lord Stanhope again on the 18th of May attempting to obtain a repeal of certain severe and cruel laws,* which still remain on our statute

* As an introduction to this motion, his Lordship begged leave to mention about one-tenth part of the absurd ecclesiastical laws of this country, being convinced that more than this would not be necessary to induce the House to adopt the bill which he designed to propose. A few of these we will insert in this place.

Under the head of *laws about going to church*, we find one by which it is enacted that every person is to go to church every Sunday and holiday, or to forfeit one shilling. Another makes it a penalty of 20l. or the forfeiture of two-thirds of the offender's property, *at the prosecutor's option*, for any person who absents himself from church for a month. A third law enacts, that every person

books, to the disgrace of the country : and which, at any future day, might be resorted to as instruments of oppression and ruin to multitudes of the most valuable members of the community. He avowed that the principle by which he was actuated was, that no man had any right to oppress another ; that liberty of conscience, freedom of investigation in matters of religion, and the right of private judgment, were the indefeasible and unalienable rights of mankind ; and that it was wholly upon that sacred right of private judgment that the Protestant religion itself was founded. The bill introduced by his Lordship into

person who refuses to go to church shall be committed to prison till he will go. And every persons shall pay 10l. per month for every servant, for every visitor, and also for every servant of every visitor, in his or her house, who does not go to church.

Among the *laws about rites*, &c. it is enacted, that in cases of heresy or incontinency, or refusing to have a child baptised, or refusing to receive the communion as received in the established church, or for refusing to come to divine service, persons found guilty in any of these respects shall be excommunicated, that is, shall be disqualified to be a witness in any cause ; to act as an executor ; to buy or to sell ; to bring an action for the recovery of a debt ; or even to have christian burial. His Lordship proceeds to mention several other curious laws still in existence, of which we will enumerate only three. The *first* makes it imprisonment and forfeiture of all goods and chattels to *export women* without a licence from the King. The *second* fixes a penalty of 10l. upon a man who is found guilty ; either, 1, Of cutting out a beast's tongue ; or, 2, Of burning a cart ; or, 3, Of barking an apple-tree ; or, 4, Of cutting off the ears of any of his Majesty's subjects ; and a *third* law makes it highly penal to conjure up spirits from the dead, or to feed them, when raised, either with animal or vegetable food.—See *Parliamentary Register*, *Debrett*.

the House of Peers, enacted, "That all persons, " (Papists excepted)* shall have free liberty to exercise their religion; and by speaking, writing, " printing, publishing, preaching, and teaching, to " instruct persons in the duties of religion, in such " manner as every such person respectively shall " judge the most conducive to promote virtue, the " happiness of society, and the eternal felicity of " mankind." This bill, after a debate in which several of the Bishops took a share, was thrown out.

It was during this discussion that Lord Stanhope, in reply to some observations made by Viscount Stormont, declared his resolution of persevering in the cause in which he had engaged, and " that if the " right reverend Bench of Bishops would not suffer " him to load away their rubbish by cart-fuls, he " would endeavour to carry it away in wheel-barrows, " and if that mode of removal were resisted, he would " take it away, if possible, with a spade, a little at a " time."

Lord Stanhope but little discouraged by the fate of his bill, immediately gave notice of another which he meant to introduce for the purpose of repealing an act of the 27th of Henry the Eighth, and thereby to prevent vexatious suits relative to prosecutions for tythes from Quakers. When his Lordship moved for the commitment of this bill, he instanced several

* His Lordship made a distinction between Papists and Catholic Dissenters. This distinction is well illustrated in an excellent work lately published, entitled, "A modest Apology for the Roman Catholics of Great Britain," &c. &c.

cases of very considerable hardship which had but just occurred, and which were likely to ruin the persons so affected.* Although the facts adduced by his Lordship remained uncontradicted and undefended by any noble Peer, yet the bill was rejected.

We are now arrived at the period when the French Bastile was destroyed by the citizens of Paris, and the foundation of that revolution laid, which, for the last eleven years, has been the astonishment of all mankind. Never did the world witness an event so momentous as this; its consequences still set calculation at defiance. The prospects which it offered interested every bosom; while some contemplated its probable effects with abhorrence and terror; others, among whom was certainly Earl Stanhope, considered it as the most glorious event that the page of history ever recorded, an event pregnant with good consequences to future ages.

Such was his Lordship's opinion at the commencement of the Revolution; and from this, we believe, he has never once deviated. In the year 1788, Lord Stanhope had met, in conjunction with a number of

* At Coventry *six* Quakers had been prosecuted for refusing to pay Easter offerings, which in the whole amounted to but two shillings. For this sum they had been brought into the Spiritual Court, the expences of which amounted to 165l. 11s. besides their own proctor's bill, which was 128l. 1s. 6d. Thus, instead of two shillings, they had nearly 300l. to pay in consequence of religious scruples.

At Worcester a man of some property had been imprisoned in the common jail for refusing to pay his tythes, which amounted to only five shillings.

gentlemen of great respectability, to celebrate the centenary of the Revolution in England. These gentlemen formed themselves into a society for the "purpose of causing the principles of the Revolution to be well understood, extensively propagated, and firmly maintained, and to preserve the glorious fabric of the British Constitution, and to transmit the invaluable blessings of public freedom to posterity unimpaired and improved." This society was denominated the "Revolution Society;" a Committee of which was appointed, who might keep up a correspondence with other societies meeting in different parts of the kingdom for the same general purposes.

At the annual meeting of the Revolution Society on November the 4th, 1789, Lord Stanhope was called to the chair. The recent destruction of the Bastille was an event which naturally excited the attention of persons assembled on such an occasion, and for the avowed purpose of celebrating the destruction of tyranny in England. Accordingly Dr. Price, who in the fore-part of the day had preached his celebrated discourse on the love of our native country, moved a congratulatory address to the National Assembly of France.* This motion was carried unanimously,

* The address was as follows :

"The Society for commemorating the REVOLUTION IN GREAT BRITAIN, disdaining national partialities, and rejoicing in every triumph of liberty and justice over arbitrary power, offer to the National Assembly of France their congratulations on the revolution in that country, and on the prospect it gives to the 1800—1801. I "two

and the chairman was requested to transmit the same to Paris.

The ARCHBISHOP OF AIX, President of the National Assembly, returned a very respectful answer to the address, accompanied with a friendly and patriotic letter to the noble Earl. After this, many other addresses were received by the Revolution Society of London, from a variety of patriotic assemblies held in different parts of France, to which Lord Stanhope, as Chairman of the Committee, was called upon to reply. His Lordship's answers were all animated with an ardent spirit of freedom, and with the sanguine hope that the Revolution in France would be the means of uniting the two countries by bonds of the strictest alliance. "May Heaven," says he, in reply to M. l'Abbé VOLPIUS, "bless the world with an union so desirable, and suffer no partial interests or popular violences to prevent the citizens of FRANCE from enjoying all the blessings that can be derived from a wise, and equitable, and free constitution of government."

Upon the meeting of the Parliament in February,

"two first Kingdoms in the world, of a common participation in the blessings of civil and religious liberty.

"They cannot help adding their ardent wishes of a happy settlement of so important a revolution, and at the same time expressing the particular satisfaction with which they reflect on the tendency of the glorious example given in France to encourage other nations to assert the *unalienable* rights of mankind, and thereby to introduce a general reformation in the governments of Europe, and to make the world free and happy."

1790,

1790, Mr. Burke attacked the French Revolution in terms of the most unqualified abuse. He held up the Revolution Society here as a combination of wicked persons, who had shewn a strong disposition to imitate the French spirit of reform. This speech was published by Mr. Burke in a separate pamphlet, which was answered by Lord Stanhope in a very spirited letter to the author.* In this letter his Lordship avows his approbation of the French Revolution; defends the proceedings of the Society in London; calls on the public to judge for themselves whether the address sent by them to the National Assembly, and signed by him as chairman, be not an act deserving praise rather than blame.

About this period Lord Stanhope was employed in a variety of experiments on the subject of navigating vessels by means of an apparatus to be moved by steam. In the course of these experiments, which engaged his Lordship's attention almost incessantly for six or seven years, he took out two or three patents; he built, at Rotherhithe, three or four vessels of different sizes, and expended considerable sums of money in the attempt, which does not at present appear to have been attended with advantage to himself, or with that practical utility which he and his friends anticipated.

In the year 1792, Mr. Fox introduced into the House of Commons his famous *Libel Bill*, which,

* See "A letter from Earl Stanhope to the Right Honourable Edmund Burke: containing a short answer to his late Speech on the French Revolution."

when it was brought into the Upper House of Parliament, Lord Stanhope defended in all its stages. The importance of the doctrines contained in this bill, and the opposition it met with from some quarters, induced his Lordship to publish a small octavo volume on the subject, entitled, *The Rights of Juries defended, together with Authorities of Law in support of those Rights, and the Objections to Mr. Fox's Libel Bill refuted.*

This work may, perhaps, be considered as a careful report of the speeches made by his Lordship in Parliament. His reasoning is, in general, clear and convincing; his arguments drawn from legal authority appear indisputable; and his zeal for the liberty of the subject is every where evident. The concluding paragraph of the work will exhibit very properly the temper and spirit of the whole. Speaking of the trial by Jury, his Lordship says:

“ One citadel, however, has withstood the siege;
 “ one important fort has alone successfully resisted
 “ the attacks that have been made upon it. It has
 “ resisted for ages; it has neither been destroyed by
 “ sap nor taken by storm. If, therefore, we are still
 “ a *free* nation; if this kingdom is the richest, and
 “ the most prosperous country that at this moment
 “ exists in Europe, we owe it to that strong hold and
 “ *fortress of the people*, to that impregnable GIBRAL-
 “ TAR of the English Constitution, the TRIAL BY
 “ JURY. *This* is that invaluable *Bulwark of Liberty*,
 “ which Parliament has lately protected, and will, I
 “ trust, ever continue to protect: at least I shall con-
 “ sider

“sider it as one of my most essential duties to defend it steadily to the last hour of my life.”

At the close of this year Parliament was suddenly assembled, the Tower of London fortified, and other measures taken, which indicated on the part of Ministers some fear of impending dangers; but which, to persons acquainted with ministerial manoeuvres, were, at the time, considered only as a prelude to a war with France. Accordingly, in January 1793, every preparation was made for the commencement of hostilities, and the French Ambassador was ordered to leave the kingdom in a short time. To these measures Lord Stanhope gave a decided opposition. In the House of Peers he undertook to prove, that, both by the spirit and letter of the commercial treaty, the act of aggression was committed on the part of this country; it being therein stipulated, that the sending away a minister should be considered as a declaration of war.

With respect to this disastrous contest, it would ill become us to offer any remarks; otherwise than as they are connected with the opposition which Lord Stanhope uniformly gave to it. Nor is it our intention to notice all his Lordship's exertions on this subject; it will be sufficient if we refer to a few motions made by him in the House of Peers. On the 23d of January, 1794, Lord Stanhope, at the conclusion of an able speech, moved, “That an humble address be presented to his Majesty, humbly to represent to his Majesty, that the French Nation

“ has expressly recognized this sacred principle,
 “ That no country possesses the right to interfere
 “ with another independent nation ;’ to state to his
 “ Majesty, that in the 118th and 119th articles of the
 “ Constitution, they have declared, that the French
 “ people is the friend and natural ally of every free
 “ people, and that it does not interfere in the Go-
 “ vernment of other nations : humbly, therefore, to
 “ beseech his Majesty, in his equity and justice, to
 “ ACKNOWLEDGE THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, and there-
 “ by lay the foundation of a speedy reconciliation
 “ and a permanent peace.”

His Lordship’s motion was rejected, and, from the
 circumstance of standing alone in the division, on
 this and some other subsequent occasions, he ob-
 tained generally the title of the *minority of one*. In
 the course of the debate, Lord Stanhope investigated
 at large the nature and extent of the resources of
 France, both as they respected men, money, and war-
 like stores. He deprecated the mode resorted to by
 the allied powers of carrying on the war. He ridi-
 culed the idea, suggested by some members of Ad-
 ministration, of endeavouring to starve the people of
 France. He shewed that it was become the interest
 of the great body of the people in that country, that
 the Revolution should be permanent, and being their
 interest, that all the powers of Europe could not
 overthrow it : he defended the French nation from
 the charge of atheism, which had been exhibited
 against it, and declared, that from his own knowledge
 the

the only atheists in France were to be found among the aristocrats, and the men of literature, among whom the foremost were some of the clergy. —

On the 31st of the same month, Lord Stanhope moved in the House of Lords, “That an humble address be presented to his Majesty, that this House has been informed that Thomas Muir, Esq. who was tried before the High Court of Justiciary, at Edinburgh, in the month of August last, upon a charge of sedition, has been condemned, and sentenced to be transported beyond seas for the space of fourteen years: and further to represent to his Majesty, that the House intends to proceed without delay to examine the circumstances of such condemnation, and of such sentence; and therefore humbly to beseech his Majesty, that the said Thomas Muir, Esq. may not be transported beyond seas, until this House shall have had sufficient time to make such examination.”

Had this motion been carried, it was his Lordship's intention to have moved the same kind of address in behalf of the other persons, viz. Thomas Fishe Palmer, &c. who had been condemned to suffer similar punishments. But the House refusing to agree to the address, Lord Stanhope immediately entered on the journals a very spirited and argumentative protest,* in which he shewed that the proceedings

* Dissentient. 1st. Because the attending to the due administration of justice, and the watching over the conduct of the various Courts in this kingdom, is one of the most important branches of the business of this House, and is at all times also one of its most essential duties.

against Mr. Muir were directly hostile to decisions of the House of Lords in the case of Warren Hastings, Esq.

2dly, Because it obviously appears to be proper to examine into the justice and legality of a sentence, before it is executed, and not to permit it to be executed first, and then to examine into its justice and legality afterwards.

3dly, Because for want of such timely interference on the part of this House, it has formerly happened, that, within a short time, no less than four unjust and illegal judgments were actually carried into execution, as appears from the respective attainders of the innocent sufferers having been afterwards reversed and made void (when it was too late) by four acts of Parliament, made and passed in the first year of the reign of their late Majesties King William and Queen Mary, namely in the cases of Alderman Cornish, Alice Lisle, Algernon Sidney, and Lord Russel.

4thly, Because it is contrary to the first and immutable principles of natural justice, that any thing to the prejudice of a defendant should be brought before a jury in a criminal prosecution, "that is only collateral, not in issue, nor necessary in the conclusion."

5thly, Because it is not (nor ought to be) competent for a prosecutor to produce any evidence to support any matter that is not charged in the indictment; that is to say, distinctly and precisely charged, and not by mere epithet or general words, such as oppression, sedition, vexation, or the like.

6thly, Because in like manner it is not (nor ought to be) competent for a prosecutor to produce any evidence to prove any crime to have been committed by a defendant, in any other particular than that wherein it is in the indictment expressly charged to have been committed.

7thly, Because no such proceedings as those above stated, nor any of them can be justified under pretence, that "*if it had been necessary to specify in the indictment all the facts against the defendant, the indictment would have covered, by its magnitude, the walls of the Court.*"* And,

* See the Lord-Advocate's speech on Mr. Muir's trial.

8thly,

As one of the Judges in Mr. Hastings's cause, no man attended his duty more regularly and consci-

Sthly, Because in one year of the trial of Warren Hastings, Esquire, namely, in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety, there were no less than four decisions of the House of Lords upon the subject, viz. on the twenty-fifth day of February, when the Lords resolved,

“ That the Managers for the Commons be not admitted to give evidence of the unfitness of Kelloram for the appointment of being a renter of certain lands in the province of Bahar; the fact of such unfitness of the said Kelloram not being charged in the impeachment.”

And again on the 4th day of May, when the House of Lords decided,

“ That it is not competent to the Managers for the Commons to put the following question to the witness upon the seventh article of charge, viz.—Whether more oppressions did actually exist under the new institution than under the old?”

And again on the 18th of May, when the House of Lords resolved,

“ That it is not competent to the Managers for the Commons to give evidence of the enormities actually committed by Deby Sing: the same not being charged in the impeachment.”

And again on the second day of June, when the Lords resolved,

“ That it is not competent for the Managers, on the part of the Commons, to give any evidence upon the seventh article of the impeachment, to prove that the letter on the 5th of May, 1781, is false, in any particular than that wherein it is expressly charged to be false.”

The said decisions of the House of Lords are founded upon principles not peculiar to trials by impeachment. They are founded upon common sense, and on the immutable principles of justice. In Scotland those principles are peculiarly necessary to be adhered to, inasmuch as by the laws of that part of the united kingdom, a defendant is obliged to produce a complete list of all his witnesses in exculpation, the day before the trial. That alone appears

entiously, for several years, than Lord Stanhope. He considered an impeachment of a servant of the public, by the Commons of England, as an object of great national importance. And though he highly disapproved, in many instances, the conduct of the managers of that trial, particularly the rancour and malignity of Mr. Burke; and the excessive protraction of the trial, yet from the time of its commencement till May 1794, his Lordship never was absent a single quarter of an hour. He was not more regular in his attendance than anxious to understand the whole merits of the cause, in order that justice might be done to the prisoner at the bar, as well as to the public. He was assiduous in taking notes in every part of the evidence; in cross-examining witnesses; and he frequently silenced Mr. Burke, when he conceived him either arguing points which were irrelevant to the matter charged in the impeachment; or when he was examining witnesses on points unconnected with the subject; circumstances into which

appears to me a considerable hardship. But if, after such list is actually delivered in by the defendant, any facts (or supposed facts) not particularly set forth as crimes in the indictment, may, on the following day, for the first time, and without notice, be suddenly brought out in evidence upon the trial, against the defendant, such defendant, from such an entrapping mode of trial, may be convicted, although innocent. Such proceedings (whether supported or unsupported by any old Scotch statute passed in arbitrary times) ought, I conceive, to be revised. *For, in a free country, there ought not to be one mode of administering justice to one man, namely to Mr. Hastings; and an opposite mode of administering justice to another man, namely, to Mr. Muir.**

STANHOPE.

* See *Parliamentary Register*.

the honourable manager's indignation frequently led him.*

Notwithstanding Lord Stanhope's punctuality and incessant attention to this trial for the space of seven years; yet, when Ministers, under the pretence of the discovery of a secret plot, which has been proved never to have existed but in their own minds, overturned the most valuable part of the British Constitution, by the suspension of that bulwark of British liberty, the Habeas Corpus Act, he declined any farther attendance as one of Mr. Hastings' judges; conceiving that, in a country where there is no security for personal freedom, courts of justice lose all their native dignity, and become the shadows and forms only of what they represent.

On the 4th of April he moved, in the House of Peers, a resolution which, if carried, would have effectually prevented his Majesty's Ministers from interfering with the *internal government* of France. His Lordship introduced this motion by a speech of considerable length: he fortified his reasoning by references to a sermon lately preached before that House by the Bishop of Norwich, and by quotations from Blackstone's Commentaries, and Lord Liverpool's publication "*On the Establishment of a National and Constitutional Force.*" At the conclusion

* "Mr. Burke was no less than four successive days in making "his preliminary speech, which was filled with vehement invective, with much rhetorical exaggeration, and with matter "wholly extraneous to the subject of the impeachment." See *Belsham's History of George III.* vol. ii, p. 194.

of his speech he quoted part of a poem on death,* ascribed to Dr. Porteus, Bishop of London, at the same time declaring, that what the Rev. Prelate had applied to Kings in general, he should consider as characteristic of arbitrary Monarchs only. His Lordship, when he had finished his speech, asked the Bishop if he acknowledged the admirable lines just quoted, to which the Prelate is said to have replied "*they were not made for the present war.*"

Lord Stanhope's zeal in endeavouring to obtain a reform of Parliament, and his having acted in the capacity of delegate for the county of Kent, were the occasion of his being called as an evidence in the trial of Mr. J. H. Tooke, on the charge of high treason. He underwent a long examination, in a very clear and distinct manner. By calling his Lordship,

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- " One murder makes a villain,
 - " Millions a hero; Princes are privileg'd
 - " To kill, and numbers sanctify the crime.
 - " Ah, why will Kings forget that they are men ?
 - " And men that they are brethren ? Why delight
 - " In human sacrifice ? Why burst the ties
 - " Of nature, that should knit their souls together
 - " In one soft bond of amity and love ?
 - " They yet still breathe destruction, still go on,
 - " Inhumanly ingenious, to find out
 - " New pains for life—new terrors for the grave !
 - " Artificers of death ! Still Monarchs dream
 - " Of universal empire growing up
 - " From universal ruin. Blast thy design,
 - " GREAT GOD OF HOSTS ! Nor let thy creatures fall
 - " Unpitied victims at Ambition's shrine !"

Poem on Death.

the

the Duke of Richmond, Major Cartwright, Mr. Pitt, and many other persons of high rank, Mr. Tooke evidently meant to shew that the "*treasonable practices*" committed by him, and the other persons included in the same indictments in 1794, had, but ten or twelve years before, been engaged in by his very accusers; and had been the means of elevating them to the high stations which they now enjoyed.

In February, 1795, one of the largest meetings ever known in London was held to celebrate the honourable acquittals of the persons lately arraigned for high treason. At this meeting Earl Stanhope was called to the chair, from which he delivered a speech of considerable length with great spirit and animation. This speech he afterwards published, with an appendix on the same subject.

Lord Stanhope had, previously to this meeting, taken a formal leave of the House of Peers. He had, on the 6th of January, made the following motion, which was not only rejected, but in which he found himself entirely unsupported; his Lordship therefore concluded, that in the present temper of the House any efforts that he could make would be ineffectual to stop the ravages of a war which he had deprecated from the first, and to which he had uniformly given a fruitless opposition. His Lordship's resolution was this:

"Resolved, That this country ought not, and will not interfere in the internal affairs of France; and that it is expedient explicitly to declare the same."

Although Lord Stanhope had frequently stood
alone

alone in the divisions in the House of Peers, yet, considering the simplicity and moderation of this motion, it is scarcely to be accounted for that he was not joined on the present occasion by the minority. Whether his Lordship had determined, previously to the fate of his motion, to secede from his duty as a senator; or whether he was influenced to take this measure in consequence of the reception he met with from all sides of the House, we cannot ascertain; but there is before the public a very serious and manly protest,* in which he has assigned distinctly

* PROTEST.

Jan. 9, 1795.

Dissentient. 1st, Because the motion made for the House to adjourn was professedly intended to get rid of the following resolution, viz. "Resolved, that this country ought not, and will not interfere in the internal affairs of France; and that it is expedient explicitly to declare the same."

2dly, Because I hold that it is contrary to equity and justice for any foreign country to interfere in the internal affairs or constitution of the French Republic, or of any other independent nation.

3dly, Because the Government of Great Britain, (not having been elected by the Citizens of France) can have no more right to give to France a monarchical, aristocratical, or other form of government whatever, than the crowned despots of Prussia and Russia had to overturn the constitution of (now unhappy) Poland.

4thly, Because I highly disapprove and reprobate the doctrine advanced by Ministers in the debate, namely, "That to restore the ancient and hereditary Monarchy of France no expence should be spared."—And I reprobate that pernicious and uncivic doctrine the more strongly, from its not having been suddenly, hastily, or inconsiderately started, but from its having been taken up (as it was solemnly declared) upon the utmost deliberation.

5thly, Because I deem it to be an injustice committed by Ministers

the motives for his past and future conduct, and which he entered upon the journals of the House on the following Friday.

ters towards my fellow-citizens, to adopt a principle which shall render it necessary for the Government of Great Britain to lay further heavy burdens upon the people; and to tax their houses, their windows, their beer, their candles, their shoes, and many other conveniences and necessities of life, in order to provide a fund to attempt the accomplishment of such wicked purpose as aforesaid.

6thly, Because the proposed resolution above stated was intended by me as a "*solemn pledge*" that the Government of this nation would not interfere in the internal affairs of France; but the refusal of the House to give such a pledge tends to shut the door to peace, and consequently tends to ensure the ruin of this manufacturing, commercial, and once happy country; particularly considering the increased and rapidly increasing strength of the navy of the French Republic, independently of the prospect there is of their having the navies of Holland and Spain under their immediate influence.

7thly, Because the public funds, the paper currency, and the public and private credit of this country, will probably be unequal to stand against the tremendous shock to which the Ministers will now expose them.

8thly, Because I think that frankness, fairness, humanity, and the principles of honesty and of justice, are always in the end the best policy. And I believe it to be true in regard to nations (as well as with respect to individuals) that "nothing that is not just can be wise, or likely to be ultimately prosperous."

9thly, Because I lament the more that the House should refuse to disclaim the interfering in the internal Constitution of France, inasmuch as by the new Constitution of the French Republic, one and indivisible, adopted by the present National Convention, on the 23d day of June, 1793, and under the title "Of the relation of the French Republic with foreign nations," and by the articles 118 and 119 of that Constitution it is declared and enacted,

"That the French people is the friend and natural ally of every free nation. It does not interfere with the government of other nations ;

In the Senate we hear little or nothing more of his Lordship till the month of February, 1800, when he

“ nations : it does not suffer, that other nations should interfere with its own.”

So frank, so fair, and so explicit a declaration on their part did, in my opinion, entitle them to a better species of return.

10thly, Because I conceive that a true republican form of government being firmly established in France, is much more safe to the liberties of the people of Great Britain, than the tyrannical, capricious, perfidious, secret, intriguing, and restless ancient monarchy of France, or than any other monarchy they could there establish : but even if I were of a direct opposite way of thinking, I would not be guilty of the gross injustice of attempting to force a monarchy upon them contrary to their inclination.

11thly, Because I think that no war ought to be continued that can by a proper line of moderation be avoided ; and the more especially with respect to the French people, who, by their republican exertions, republican enthusiasm, and republican courage, have made victory the almost constant “ order of the day.”

12thly, Because the continuance of such a bloody contest without necessity, appears to be a profane tempting of DIVINE PROVIDENCE, in whose benign and almighty hands the fate of battles and of empires is placed.

13thly, Because I wish to wash my hands entirely of the innocent blood that may be shed in this war with France, and of all the destruction, confusion, and devastation (perhaps in Great Britain itself) which may ensue.

14thly, Because it was my object to preclude the Government of Great Britain from attempting to stir up or excite insurrections in *La Vendee*, or any other department of the French Republic ; and the resolution I moved was well calculated for that purpose.

15thly, Because the maxim of “ Do not to others that which you would not wish done to yourself,” is an unerring rule, founded upon the clear principles of justice, that is to say, of *equality of rights*. It is upon this strong and solid ground that I make *my stand*. And all public men, in order to merit the confidence of
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again resumed his place in Parliament, and, after a long and animated speech, moved,

“ That an humble address be presented to his Majesty, representing the horrors of war ; that in all countries a state of peace is ever the interest of the people, and the shedding of blood, without absolute necessity, repugnant to humanity : and further representing, that the present war has been expensive beyond example, productive of a great increase of the national debt, of taxes to an enormous amount, and of an alarming increase in the price of all the necessaries of life : and further representing, that peace is necessary to avert the impending danger of famine, for although the present scarcity is in the first instance occasioned by a scanty harvest,

the British people, must shew their determination to act with frankness and with unequivocal good faith and justice towards the French Republic.

Having, upon this important and momentous subject, frequently stood alone, and having also been upon this last occasion totally unsupported in the division, if I should therefore cease at present to attend this House (where I have been placed by the mere *accident of birth*), such of my fellow-citizens as are friends to freedom, and who may chance to read this my solemn PROTEST, will find that I have not altered my sentiments or opinions ; and that I have not changed any of my principles ; for my principles NEVER CAN be changed. And those fellow-citizens will also find, that I hereby pledge myself to my country, that I shall continue what I ever have been, a zealous and unshaken friend to PEACE, to justice, and to liberty, political, civil, and religious ; and that I am determined to die (as I have lived) a firm and steady supporter of the unalienable rights and of the happiness of all mankind.

See Parliamentary Register.

STANHOPE.

1800-1801.

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“ the extent of the evil arises from the war ; and
“ that it is the duty of this House strongly to dis-
“ suade his Majesty from the continuance of the
“ war for the restoration of the ancient line of Princes
“ of the House of Bourbon to the throne of France ;
“ and to entreat that a negociation may be immedi-
“ ately opened for peace with the French Republic.”

This motion met with a fate similar to those we have already noticed ; it was rejected by an immense majority. During his Lordship's secession from the House, we rarely find him engaged in any political concerns. Twice he attended county meetings in Kent, and once in Buckinghamshire ; and in the beginning of the year 1799, he published an address to the people of Great Britain and Ireland, on the subject of a union, which was re-printed and circulated by the anti-union party of Dublin. In other respects he has, we believe, secluded himself from the political world, and been engaged either in mechanical pursuits, or in projects for improving his estates.

In expectation of increasing the value of a large landed property which his Lordship possesses in Devonshire, he projected, a few years ago, a canal of considerable extent, by means of which manure might be brought from the sea-shore, in the Bristol channel, into the inland parts of the county. With this view Lord Stanhope took the level of a vast tract of country, and laid out the whole plan himself. So sanguine was he of the success of this scheme, and of the advantages which would result to his own estate, as well as to the whole of that part of Devonshire,

shire, that he spared no pains in obtaining all the information necessary to the undertaking; and so indefatigable was he in the business, that, for many weeks together, he walked almost every day between twenty and thirty miles, carrying, a great part of the time, his theodolite on his shoulder: but, notwithstanding his great exertions, the project has never been executed, owing to the immense obstacles that present themselves against it, the poverty of that part of the country, and the comparatively little benefit that would result from it.

In the course of his survey, Lord Stanhope discovered that he had difficulties to surmount which, though common to almost all works of this kind, had, probably, never before engaged his attention. In some parts of the country through which the canal was to run, he found the tract perfectly level for several miles together, and consequently in those parts the labour and expence necessary for the performance of the work would, in all probability, come within the calculated estimates; but in other districts there were hills of no inconsiderable height to ascend.

The common method of locks is, besides the expence, attended with a great loss of time in the passing or repassing of the boats or barges. His Lordship's mechanical genius was therefore exerted to contrive some other plan for raising and lowering the vessels.

We have reason to believe that he devised several methods, which he considered as superior, in every

respect, to those which are commonly made use of in business of this kind. The difficulty was for him to fix his attention to that plan which should secure the maximum of advantages.

He at length determined upon a double inclined plane, a model of which he constructed on a large scale at his residence in Kent, and called it the *free way*. This plane is supposed to be fixed to a hill, to the bottom of which the lower branch of the canal flows; while the upper branch is supposed to commence at a certain distance from the summit of the hill on the other side.

Up this plane the boats are raised from the lower part of the canal to the higher, by means of the weight of other boats whose direction is from the higher to the lower. It will, perhaps, occur to every reader, that the returning vessels may sometimes be empty, or, at least, not laden with a tonnage sufficient to balance, much less to raise those which are to ascend from the lower to the higher level.

To obviate this objection, his Lordship did not intend to raise or lower the boats by themselves, but had contrived a kind of vessel which he called a boat-carrier, into which the boats, whether laden or empty, are made to float before they are either elevated or depressed. Now, as these boat-carriers are in their natural state always full of water, it is evident, upon hydrostatic principles, that, whatever be the weight of the vessel floated into them, still the weight of the boat-carrier, boat and burden, will, at all times, be equal to the same weight, because just

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in proportion to the weight of the boat and burden immersed will be the quantity of water forced out of the boat-carrier; that is, a vessel of one ton weight will force out a ton weight of water, and another of three tons will dispel a quantity of water equal to that weight. Now by this contrivance the weight of an empty boat and apparatus will be equal to that of one ever so deeply laden, consequently a descending empty vessel will keep *in æquilibrio* an ascending one that is laden, and the addition of a small force will raise the vessel. The boat-carriers run upon rollers, which theoretically remove all friction. And to save unnecessary expence, his Lordship had adopted the plan of small boats, of about four tons burden, for which a narrow canal would only be necessary; and by a neat contrivance he intended to link several of the boats together, by which means one horse would be able to draw a greater burden, and the canal might take a straight or winding direction, as should best suit the level of the country, since the smallness of the vessels would not prevent their turning; and though twenty of them were linked together; yet, like the different links of a chain, they would not impede the progress of each other, however winding the course of the canal.

How far this plan, adopted by Lord Stanhope as the best, corresponds to that used in some parts of Holland, called the rolling-bridge upon dry land, and which, it is said, was the method employed by the ancients, and is still used by the Chinese; or whether

they bear any analogy to one another, is more than we can attempt to decide.

Of Lord Stanhope's arithmetical machines we have already spoken : the success which he obtained in the structure of these curious instruments has, we are informed, led him to believe that one of still greater utility and importance might be contrived, by means of which, instead of the four fundamental rules of arithmetic, he conceives the whole art of reasoning may be conducted. Of this machine, in its unfinished state, it would ill become us to say more, were it even in our power, than what his Lordship is accustomed to mention in every company. And we have often heard him assert, that with his reasoning-machine he shall be able, on all subjects, to draw true conclusions from any given premises ;—that he shall be able not only to detect false reasoning, however sophistically combined, but to shew the various links of the chain by which these false conclusions have been deduced ;—and that with it he shall with great ease be able to ascend, by regular steps, from the first definitions of Euclid to the higher and most sublime speculations of our immortal Newton !

Among the useful objects which have recently occupied the attention of his Lordship, is the introduction of Stereo-type printing into England. He has expended a considerable sum of money, and devoted a large portion of time, in experiments ; and if they should be attended with success, his Lordship purposes shortly to disclose their result to the public.

And,

And, as a proof of that spirit of general utility which actuates Earl Stanhope, he has taken measures to prevent the possibility of any monopoly of the benefits of his plan by letters patent.

Thus have we given the leading traits of Lord Stanhope's character, both as a philosopher and a senator. With this outline, sketched perhaps imperfectly, the public will have no difficulty to fill up the picture. As a public speaker, his Lordship's eloquence is distinguished by energy, and his observations by vigour, and sometimes by originality. His appearance, action, and manner, add no graces to the sentiments which he delivers; they sometimes operate upon the hearers considerably to his disadvantage. With those auditors, however, who examine deeper than the surface of things, who are capable of distinguishing between the argument and the mode of stating it, Lord Stanhope will be considered as a man of science and of strong understanding.

Lord Stanhope has been twice married: his first lady was the eldest daughter of the great Earl of Chatham, by whom he has three beautiful, accomplished, and amiable daughters, the second of whom, Lady Griselda, is married to John Tekell, Esq. of Hambledon House, Hampshire; and the youngest, Lady Lucy, to Thomas Taylor, Esq. Comptroller of the Customs. His Lordship's second wife is the only daughter and heiress of the late Mr. Grenville, Governor of Barbadoes, and Ambassador at the Court of Constantinople for a considerable time. By this lady, Lord Stanhope has three sons; the eldest, Lord Ma-

hon, has nearly completed his twenty-second year, and, although he has been in a great measure secluded from the world till within a few years, he is by no means deficient in those accomplishments which are expected of every person in his rank of life.

GEORGE COLMAN

THE YOUNGER.

THE subject of this memoir assumed this designation from the moment that he first appeared before the public as a dramatic author, and he still continues it, in order to mark the distinction between himself and his father, the late George Colman,*

* George Colman the elder was the son of Francis Colman, Esq. resident at the court of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, by a sister of the Countess of Bath. He was born at Florence, and had a sister two years older than himself, who was likewise born in the same city. They had each the honour of a royal godfather and godmother (as children of a British plenipotentiary), from whom they took the several names of George and Charlotte.

Mr. Colman the elder began his literary career early in life, having in January 1754, in conjunction with the late Bonnell Thornton, Esq. commenced the paper called the *CONNOISSEUR*, by Mr. Town, when they were both students of Christchurch, Oxford: in this publication, which continued till September 1756, they were occasionally assisted by the late Robert Lloyd, Esq. who corresponded with them under the assumed name of *Cousin Village*, and, among other highly diverting papers, wrote the humorous description of a citizen's country box.

Mr. Colman the elder, besides the masterly comedy of the *Jalous Wif*e, produced the farces of *Polly Honeycombe*, the *Musical Lady*, the *Oxonian in Town*, *Islington Spa*, or *Tunbridge Wells*

Esq. the elegant translator of *Terence*, and the able author of that excellent comedy the *Jealous Wife*.

When our author first called himself **GEORGE COLMAN the Younger**, the shallow coxcombs of the pen arraigned the measure as a mark of intolerable affectation and singularity. These gentry, perhaps, were not only ignorant that there was ancient precedent for the circumstance, and that the two Plinys were termed the elder and the younger Pliny, but also, that it is absolutely necessary, where the talents of two men of one and the same name, whose bent of genius and propensities are similar, to assume some marking distinction of designation, for the sake of enabling those who live after them to discriminate the one from the other. Where they do not take care to do this of themselves, the public will do it for them, as was the case in France with the two Corneilles, who were brothers: the elder brother, Peter, the author of the *Cid*, *Médée*, *les Horaces*, &c. was called by the literary men of Paris *Le Grand CORNEILLE*, and is so recorded in all the books that mention him, down to the present time. Mr. Colman the younger has acted with less presumption, and more modesty and filial respect to his father's

Wells, the *petite* comedy of the *Deuce is in Him*, the comedies of *Man and Wife*, the *Man of Business*, the *Suicide*, and *Separate Maintenance*, and, jointly with the late Mr. Garrick, the rich play of the *Clandestine Marriage*. He also adapted Beaumarchais' *Barbier de Seville* to the English stage, and it is now a popular representation under the title of the *Spanish Barber*; at different times he brought out an alteration of Shakespear's *King Lear*; and Beaumont and Fletcher's *Phylaster*, and *Bonduca*.

acknowledged

acknowledged abilities, which were at their zenith when his son first assumed the designation, and before he had himself discovered those powers of rivalry which he has since displayed, and which place him so nearly on a level with his father, that a candid critic is somewhat staggered when he is called upon to decide which of the two be entitled to pre-eminence: they were both men of strong natural genius and ready talent; their style was equally formed on the best classical models; their diction at once pure, neat, and nervous; and it has rarely happened that an ill-turned or feeble sentence has escaped the pen of either of them. Perhaps the only fair distinction that can be made between the father and son, as comic writers, is, that the former had most wit, and the latter the larger share of humour.

GEORGE COLMAN *the younger* was born in London, on the 21st of October 1762. His father sent him in his childhood to one or two petty schools at Richmond in Surry, where he had built a house on the banks of the Thames, which was afterwards rented by the Duke of Clarence for a year or two, and was then bought by Mr. Drummond Smith, probably its present possessor. Under the Richmond *Lingos*, George gained little more than *the rudiments of the rudiments* of English and Latin grammar. The dancing-master, once or twice a week, tortured his toes; and the writing-master came as often to rap his fingers; for "when he wrote his name," he generally "made a blot." It does not to this day ap-
pear

pear from Mr. C.'s MS. (which is so directly a facsimile of that of the elder Colman, that it is no easy matter to pronounce correctly which is that of the father, which that of the son) that his writing-master's hard ruler on his knuckles much improved his hand-writing. From this initiate tutorage he was removed to Fountain's, in Mary-le-bone, then a celebrated nursery, where young suckers were placed to strike root in learning, before they were transplanted into the great classical gardens of Westminster and Eton. At Fountain's, young Colman studied the Testament, Æsop's fables, and other early books in Latin; and learned to construe, with tolerable fluency, those parts which he had most *thumb'd*. He could also *prove and parfe*; and obtained some groundwork in *French* (which has since formed no inconsiderable part of his reading). He still was condemned to move to the sound of a kit, and to scribble "command your pen," and "command your passions," in a copy-book. He was likewise taught to destroy sundry black-lead pencils, and sticks of Indian ink, in attempts to delineate trees and farm-yards, eyes, noses, ships, and duck-ponds.

Old Fountain was as much an old woman as his wife; she, however, was the most cunning old woman of the two; the school was nevertheless well constituted. Theurchins were as well taught as might be expected, and better fed. The air, too, was pure (for London had not approached the house so closely as it has now—*now*, indeed, it almost surrounds it), and great attention was shewn to regularity,

city, cleanliness, &c. When young Colman had completed his tenth year, his father (after this second *lustrum*) removed him to Westminster. He quitted Mary-le-bone school in Passion-week, and on his arrival in Great Queen-street, where his father then lived, found that his mother was recently deceased.

Being placed at Westminster, at the age of ten, young Colman served the term of an apprenticeship there, not leaving it till he was turned of seventeen. He was considered by the master as a boy of capability, but of great indolence; consequently he was flogged for many a bad exercise, for which, if he had been deemed a blockhead, he would have escaped unpunished. When he left Westminster, he had learned neither more nor less than other boys in a public school, who are tolerably quick, but very idle. In January 1780, our author was matriculated at Oxford, and became a commoner of Christchurch; he continued there long enough to keep the terms of nearly two years; and it is to be recollected, that in Christchurch, being the strictest college in the university, the under graduates are obliged to reside during the whole of each term; whereas at some of the colleges a few days residence during a term is sufficient to keep it. Christchurch being very rigid in its discipline, and young Colman very careless in observing it, he could not have been looked upon with a favourable eye by the heads of such a house, and was frequently tasked by impositions, confinement to college, and the various other severities in use in our universities. His father at
this

this time, perhaps provoked by some juvenile indiscretions of his son at Oxford, and to keep him out of harm's way, removed him from that seminary of learning to the university of Aberdeen, where he was entered of King's college in October 1781, and continued there till January 1784, in which month he returned to London, having then completed his one and twentieth year.

If young Colman felt himself galled and harassed by the strictness of an English university, he found sufficient ease and comfort in the Scotch one: at Christchurch they were all discipline; and at King's college, Aberdeen, they had scarcely any discipline at all; the English lads there (of whom there were a few besides himself) might almost be literally said to be under none. They have but one term in the whole year; that, however, lasts during several months. Their students were generally composed of dirty, ragged, Highland boys, who come to college many of them as early as ten years old, and stay a few years; during which they are taught there (for it serves them for a school as well as a college) classical knowledge and science *ab incepto*. They begin with the very rudiments of Latin and Greek, then go to mathematics, and few of them get more than a smattering of logic and ethics. At the end of four years (some of them being only fourteen and sixteen) they go away dubbed *Masters of Arts*. As most lads are *bachelors* (in one sense) at this age, it is thought at Aberdeen that one degree may be included in the other, and the primary English step in scholastic honours is sunk.

detail; but one instance, in which our author's proficiency of wit, and strong turn for sarcastic humour, made him lose sight of delicacy and decorum, as it is connected with his onset as a scribbler, we cannot forbear to mention. Two long stages south from Aberdeen there is a post-house, situated in a village called Lawrence-kirk. Lord Gardenstone (an elderly law-lord) had stocked a book-case with books, in a room of the inn, and it was called a *library*, open for the amusement of travellers.* In this library there was an *Album*, or large white paper book, in which the passengers (by a written request in the first leaf) were desired to insert any extracts they chose from the best writers, or to enrich it with something of their own. Soon after his arrival in Aberdeen, young Colman made an excursion to Lawrence-kirk, and in his lordship's *Album* lost his poetical maidenhead, in the effusion of some dog-grel verses. A friend who has read them, though he cannot recollect the whole, has favoured us with the following fragment of the composition, which will give the reader an idea of its tendency.

“ I once was a student in Old Aberdeen,
Little knowledge I got, but a great deal of spleen,
And a large stock of patience, I freely confess, or
Had left in the lurch my old stingy professor.

Strange places, strange faces, in Scotland I saw ;
The country is bleak,—and the people are raw ;—
Such inhabitants, surely, the Devil bewitches ;—
They've no *kats* on their *heads*—on their *b---s* no *breeches*!

* A new room has since been built, and the library enlarged.

They

They — — — — —
 — — — — —

They eat, but their victuals seem ne'er left behind,
 For the devil a bit of a privy yōu find.

Yet necessity soon can some losses repair—
 So with second-hand food they perfume the fresh air ;
 You would think, for the scent is so pow'rful become,
 Your nose was stuff'd up in another man's b-m.

An instrument here, too, is frequently found,
 An instrument 'tis without shape, size, or sound ;
 And though this kind of music appears a mere riddle,
 'Tis no more, nor no less, than the common *Scotch fiddle*."

This boyish ribaldry escaped our author's pen, and was most wantonly written in the book of a gentleman, who thus took pains to beguile the passenger of the heavy hours he might otherwise pass at his inn. At the time, however, it is not to be doubted that young George thought this ill-natured attempt at wit very fine satire ; and report says, he was highly delighted, on revisiting Lawrence-kirk some time after, to see the following couplet written under his own licentious composition :

" I like thy *wit* ;—but could I see thy face,
 I'd claw it well, for Scotia's vile disgrace ;"

which, we have no doubt, if the question were to be put to George Colman the younger, at this his mature age, he would be ingenuous enough to acknowledge, would have been no more than he richly deserved.

So very lax was the discipline of King's College while our author belonged to it, that he did not reside *in* college much more than a year, but had

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lodgings for some time in New Aberdeen, a few months in the town of Montrose, and during the last three months he resided wholly in Edinburgh.

It may, perhaps, be thought by some readers, that the writer of this memoir has followed our author through his puerilities with a fastidious and unnecessary minuteness; but to trace the boyish eccentricities of an individual, whose ripened talents have since contributed so much to the amusement and delight of the public, and entitled him to rank high in the literary world, is at all times an entertaining, often an useful and instructive task.

While in Scotland, the younger Colman wrote two dramatic pieces before he was twenty years of age: a *farce* in two acts, and a *musical comedy* in three; both of which were represented at the theatre in the Haymarket. The farce, called *the Female Dramatist*, he never acknowledged. It was represented only one night, and that for the benefit of Mr. Jewell, the treasurer (August, 1782). The principal female character, performed by Mrs. Gardner, was suggested by that of Narcissa's aunt in Smollet's Roderick Random. Edwin and J. Bannister were among the representatives of the *dramatis personee*, and the piece was rather favourably received, and occasioned a good deal of laughter; but some parts of the dialogue were considered as too loose—so much so, that a countess of salacious memory, the well-known Meffalina of her day, was seen to hold her fan up to her face with all the prudery of rigid purity, and heard to exclaim, “this is too *indecent!*”

Two

Two to One (the musical comedy) was sent up to London, and accepted by Mr. Colman the elder, a full year before it was acted. A whole season was suffered to elapse without bringing it forward: it appears, therefore, as if it were composed when our author began to write *man*. It was produced in the summer of 1785, as his first avowed dramatic attempt, and repeatedly performed with success in that season, and is still frequently acted with great applause.

Mr. Colman the elder wrote a Prologue* to introduce it, in which he describes his son as

“Green in his one-and-twenty, scarce of age,”

though our author was then in his two-and-twentieth year. This comedy is a very promising effort for

* This Prologue is happily adapted to the purpose; and as it is no ordinary circumstance for a dramatic author to be the herald of his son's dramatic qualifications, we annex the

PROLOGUE TO TWO TO ONE, A COMEDY,

Spoken by Mr. PALMER.

To-night, as Heralds tell, a virgin muse,
 An untrained youth, a new adventurer sues;
 Green in his one-and-twenty, scarce of age,
 Takes his first flight, half-fledged, upon the stage.
 Within this little round, the parent bird
 Hath warbled oft; oft patiently you've heard,
 And as he strove to raise his eager throat,
 Your kind applause made music of his note:
 But now, with beating heart and anxious eye,
 He sees his vent'rous youngling strive to fly;
 Like Dædalus, a father's fears he brings,
 A father's hopes, and fain would plume his wings.

so young a writer, but it has the common faults of inexperience; a false brilliancy of dialogue, and a light and inartificial fable. It displays, however, a happy aim at strong comic character, in exhibiting which our author has, in his later pieces, most eminently distinguished himself; he comes the nearest to Foote in that essential qualification of a dramatist, of any modern play-wright. His puns and witticisms are so redundant, that, like Jeremy in Congreve's *Love for Love*, the servants may almost be said to be as witty as their masters.

This year, 1784, was a bustling year for our author, young as he was. In January he returned from Scotland. In June he came before the town as a dramatic author. In August he took a trip to Paris, and returned in September. In October he went to Gretna-Green, and was privately married to Miss Catherine Morris; and before the year expired, he was entered at Lincoln's Inn, and fixed in chambers in the Temple as a student of the law; but, as

How vain, alas, his hopes! his fears how vain!
 'Tis you must hear, and hearing judge the strain,
 Your equal justice sinks or lifts his name,
 Your frown's a sentence, your applause is fame.
 If humour warms his scenes with genial fire,
 They'll e'en redeem the errors of his sire.
 Nor shall his lead—dead to the bottom drop,
 By youth's enlivening cork buoy'd up at top.
 If characters are marked with ease and truth,
 Pleas'd with his spirit, you'll forgive his youth.
 Should sire and son be both with dulness curst,
 "And dunce the second follow dunce the first,"
 The shallow stripling's vain attempt you'll mock,
 And damn him for a *chip of the old Block*.

his father had done before him, he abandoned the dry and laborious study of the black-letter books, to pay his court to the Muses, and the Public are his witnesses, that he has proved "a thriving wooer."

In 1785 he produced a comedy called *Turk and no Turk*, which succeeded with the Public, though it is by far the most indifferent of all his dramatic writings.

In 1786 he began his opera of *Inkle and Yarico*; and when it was shewn to his father in its rude and immature state, he entertained great doubts of its success; but surely, after having accepted *Turk and no Turk*, those doubts were a little unreasonable. Our author, however, by the advice of his friends, was encouraged to put a finishing hand to it, and it was brought out in the summer of 1787 with uncommon success, and has continued to this day one of the most pleasing and popular comic operas on the stage. The boldness of changing the conclusion of the story, reforming Inkle, and making him thankfully receive Yarico as his wife, so far from revolting the minds of the audience, as might have been apprehended, relieved Inkle's character from the odium with which it was loaded, reconciled them to him, and afforded them the highest satisfaction. The characters of Sir Christopher Curry, Old Medium, and Trudge, are original, and happy sketches. Great as the merit of this opera is, our author had not yet learned altogether to restrain the luxuriancy of his wit, to husband it providently, and distribute it with discretion.

His next piece was a comedy of three acts, called *Ways and Means*, which was represented in the ensuing summer, 1788, and is still a favourite whenever performed. The epilogue to this comedy, written by young Colman, is a bold attack on the Grubs of the newspapers; those *Doers*, whose only dealings are in scandal, defamation, and gross flattery, according to the price paid for their services. This epilogue, perhaps an unwise one for so young a writer, brought the whole nest of hornets, whose dirty trade he had interfered with, about his ears; and if foul abuse and daily detraction could have wrote down a good play, *Ways and Means* would neither have produced a *supply* to the theatre or the author, and it is undeniable that it did so in a great degree. In the preface, Mr. Colman, the younger, has manfully maintained the argument of his epilogue, and liberally discriminated between the few newspaper critics that were distinguished for unbiassed opinion and candid discrimination, and those *hackney* scribblers in the public prints, who feel no regard for the interests of the drama, and write merely as their private motives direct. We heartily wish Mr. Sheridan, or our author, both of them writers of great weight and authority, would give the Grubs of the day such another dressing, because, although several of the gentlemen, who condescend to undertake the task of theatrical criticism in the public prints, are capable of judging correctly, scarcely any give us accounts of the performances in our theatres, which bear any relation to truth or justice.

Mrs.

Mrs. Colman in this year became scrupulous as to the strength of the matrimonial fetters which the blacksmith of Gretna Green had forged to link her and her husband together; and the latter consented to a second marriage, but a private one, which took place at Chelsea church in 1788. This marriage was not avowed till above a year afterwards, when our author's father's paralysis removed his dread of parental displeasure; but, in fact, our author only trod in his father's footsteps, whose marriage at Bermondsey church, was as much a secret from the Earl of Bath, his uncle, protector, and patron, as that of the younger Colman from his parent. These hasty, clandestine, and huddled up marriages are seldom productive of permanent happiness; and that of our author with Miss Morris terminated in a separation, which took place two or three years since, when the subject of our memoir allotted her as handsome a provision as the nature and circumstances of his situation and emoluments, as manager and conductor of the Hay-market theatre, could possibly admit.*

* Soon after the commencement of the summer of 1789, the paralysis which had attacked Mr. Colman the elder about three years before, fell on his brain, and rendered him incapable of any longer attending to public business; our author, therefore, naturally took upon himself the management of the Haymarket theatre, and conducted it to the close of the season. In the winter of 1789, finding that the faculty could give him no hopes of his father's recovery of his reason, our author applied to the Court of Chancery in the regular form for a commission of lunacy, which was issued, and Mr. Colman the younger appointed

In 1789, Mr. Colman brought forward his play of *the Battle of Hexham*, founded upon facts recorded by historians, the production of which we consider as the epoch whence we are to date the correction of his style of dialogue, and the more finished character of all his future productions. The scene of action laying in *the olden times*, it was necessary for our author to look back to the customs, manners, and language of those times, and to make his characters speak as the characters in the reign of Henry the Sixth did. It would have been no less absurd to have gifted them with modern diction, than to have caused Sir Christopher Hatton, famous for his dancing in the reign of Elizabeth, to have appeared on the stage without his ruff, pinked jerkin, puffed doublet, scarlet hose, and square toed shoes, and move a minuet in a cravat of the present day, scanty jacket, pantaloons, and dancing pumps. This necessarily obliged our author to look back to the writers of the *olden times*, and consult "the memorable fathers of the British drama;" and where could he find a better model than Shakespear, who with so happy a skill appropriates his language to his characters, and the time in which the action of his scene lies. From this resort of good sense and judgment, the newspaper writers thought proper to charge our author with being a professed imitator of Shakespear; and they

committee of his estate and person, under which authority he managed his théâtre till his death; he afterwards bought the whole property for many thousand pounds in 1794, and has ever since continued proprietor in his own right.

thought

thought themselves confirmed in their judgment, when *the Surrender of Calais* and *the Mountaineers* smacked of the same taste of dialogue. If these critics had thought a little more profoundly, they might have discovered that an able writer will always accommodate his style to the period in which he lays the action of his play, and that not only nothing like imitation or affectation of the Shakespearian style is to be discovered in *Two to One*, *Ways and Means*, his two earliest plays; or in *New Hay at the Old Market*, *the Iron Chest*, *the Heir at Law*, *the Poor Gentleman*, or the pleasant farce of *the Review*, our author's more modern productions. In a word, a master of his trade, as a dramatist, will always take care that nothing like gross anachronism is to be found in the locality of his scene, the manners, dress, and language of his characters, or his management of the main incidents of his plot, unless he has previously prepared the audience to expect it, by a hint in his prologue, or some other necessary notice. The fable of *the Battle of Hexham*, like all Shakespear's historical plays, is of a mixed nature; it has its comic scenes as well as its serious ones, and they are happily contrived to relieve each other. The comedy part of the play is all of our author's invention; but no auditor has left the theatre, when the piece has been performed, without feeling grateful for the author's having so entertainingly diverted his feelings from too fixed an attention on Margaret of Anjou and her ill fortunes. The episode of Adeline and Gondibert is admirably worked up, and creates so strong

strong an interest in the fifth act, that it almost overlays our concern for the disconcerted queen and her infant son, Prince Edward, afterwards slain by Richard, Duke of Gloucester; subsequent to the battle of Tewkesbury, which in a great measure decided the fate of the contest between the houses of York and Lancaster.

The *Surrender of Calais* came out in 1791, and was equally successful with our author's preceding play of *the Battle of Hexham*, being like that founded on a well known incident in our history: it was received with universal applause, and has ever since continued to be a popular play. The main fact is familiar to every school-boy; but the conduct and handling of it are fit subjects for the exercise of his master's judgment, if he possess any. The characters of *Eustache de St. Pierre* and *Old John de Vienne* are highly wrought, and consonantly coloured. We have heard it objected, that *La Gloire* is a jester out of place, and that he is equally merry, whether the subject he breaks his jokes upon be serious or mirthful. Let such critics look into the Book of Nature, and they will find, that an habitual jester cannot forbear his humour, or leave gibing even under the gallows; his humour will assume a sorrowful aspect, but it will be humour still.

In 1793 Mr. Colman produced *the Mountaineers*, a play founded on two incidents to be found in the Adventures of Don Quixote, as related by Cervantes—the one, the meeting of Cardenio, in the Sierra Morena, with the story of his misfortunes; and the other,

other, the escape of the beautiful Zorayda from her father's house, on the coast of Barbary, near to Algiers, with a beloved Christian slave. These incidents our author has worked up with great skill, and made the foundation of a most interesting drama. The character of Octavian is strongly coloured, and powerfully impressive; and the christian zeal of Zorayda is managed with equal force and delicacy. Mr. J. P. Kemble was the original Octavian, and contributed very essentially towards the success of the play, which was repeated very often in the course of the season, and is never seen or listened to without the warmest applause; we hardly know where to look to any modern author, except Mr. Sheridan, who could in so masterly a manner have adapted the language of Octavian to the distracted state of his mind; in the midst of his phrenzy, his diction is that of a man highly born and bred, and his recovery of his wits on the sight of Old Rocque, is naturally brought about; the reflections also on his having possibly hugged his sorrows too closely, and his resolving to mix again with the world, are the obvious efforts of returning reason.

Our author opened the season of 1792 with a new prelude, called *POOR OLD HAYMARKET; or, Both Sides of the Gutter!!!* which was a fair laugh at the rage that seized the proprietors of Drury-lane theatre for the erection of a new stupendous theatre, and those of Covent-garden for the enlargement of their house to the full extent of possibility. The Public relished the pleasant ridicule contained in this prelude,

lude, and joined heartily in the laughter it was calculated to excite.

In the winter of 1796 the play of *the Iron Chest* was first performed at Drury-lane theatre : this piece is avowedly founded on a novel called "*Things as they are ; or, the Adventures of Caleb Williams*," written by *William Godwin*. The expectation of the town had been highly raised respecting this play previous to its representation, the newspapers having spread a variety of reports about it; and, in particular, that a fixed and more than ordinary price was to be paid our author for the production. When the night of performance arrived, the theatre was crowded in every part; but, perhaps, in a play cast with all the strength of a good company, comedians never proceeded more sluggishly; one or two of the principal characters were ill sustained, though in the hands of favourite actors; and the whole representation was abundantly too long. The consequence was, that the audience did not leave the theatre till near midnight, and went home fatigued and disappointed. One great obstacle to the success of *the Iron Chest* was the evident and increasing indisposition of Mr. Kemble, the Sir Edward Mortimer of the piece. The play was only performed at Drury-lane theatre four nights; but Mr. Colman forthwith printed it, and prefixed an able and witty, but a very angry and severe preface to it, in which he explained all the various causes in preparing *the Iron Chest* for representation, and during its performance, which contributed to its meeting with less applause in the theatre than his
former

former pieces, imputing it almost wholly to the wilful negligence of the acting manager and principal performer, who were one and the same person. Some of the author's friends thought the publication of the preface rather injudicious, but the due allowance should be made for the deep injury and extreme provocation which the author conceived had been done him. The *genus irritabile vatū*, is proverbial; and when a dramatic writer, whose genius and talents are generally acknowledged, and whose reputation stands high in the public opinion, imagines that his fame is in danger of being sacrificed, and thinks it was designed to be destroyed, is it to be wondered at, if his feelings carry him a little too far? Whatever men's opinions were upon this point at the time, our author manfully brought forward his *Iron Chest* at the Haymarket, when this preface was in every body's hands; and, in consequence of the representation having been considerably shortened, and other judicious alterations made, it was not only received with universal applause, but has ever since continued to be a great favourite with the public. This was as singular and as great a triumph as ever dramatic writer experienced. The incidents of the *Iron Chest* are certainly in nature, and highly interesting, though they excite more of horror than any other feeling. The management of the scene is masterly throughout, and almost every act contains instances of fine writing; perhaps the whole of the language of Sir Edward Mortimer may be considered as the ablest effort at character, and energy of diction, that
ever

ever came from our author's pen. Indeed we know not a dramatic composition that affords more true delight in the closet than *the Iron Chest*; and it is matter of some surprize how so valuable a piece of goods could be manufactured and wrought up out of *Caleb Williams*, which does not, *prima facie*, appear to contain materials suited to the stage; but the address and dexterity with which Mr. Colman has softened down the coarse incidents of the novel, thrown aside the useless circumstances, and adapted the story to the stage, are incontestable proofs of his consummate skill as a dramatist. It will, doubtless, be read with satisfaction, that in the next edition of his play, printed after the stamp of public opinion in the Haymarket had given it currency, our author published it without his querulous preface; and we are happy to add, that a cordial reconciliation has taken place between the poet and the player, which it is to be hoped will continue undisturbed.

The little Theatre was opened with *New Hay at the Old Market*; or, *Silvester Daggerwood*, in 1795, a little piece which afforded much laughter; the scene between Silvester Daggerwood and the tragedy author especially, having been generally personally applied; but those supposed to be the object of the ridicule, are treated with so happy a humour, that they may fairly join in the laugh themselves. It continues to this day a great favourite, and is never seen without exciting roars of applause.

Our author's next production came out in 1797, under the title of *THE HEIR AT LAW*, and is the best comedy

comedy given to the stage since *THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL* appeared. This comedy, written to the taste of the day, is replete with genuine wit and humour. The character of Dr. Panglos may be pronounced an original, and is never seen without producing a powerful effect. Kenrick also, an Irishman, is placed in a new light, and is the first instance of a man's melancholy face and doleful feelings being rendered the principal causes of merriment and diversion. The characters of Cicely Homespun and her brother 'Zekiel, are drawn with a correct pencil; the downright blunt honesty of the brother is finely contrasted with the affected dissipation and town manner of his old acquaintance Dick Dowlas; and surely nothing can be more interesting than the pure and artless simplicity of Cicely, which tends very considerably to heighten the entertainment afforded by this comedy; which almost every scene gives a lesson of moral instruction to the mind, and "holds the mirror up to Nature," presenting the prevalent follies of the day in the most captivating manner, highly gratifying, while it most agreeably amuses the audience. *The Heir at Law*, if our author had written nothing else, is of itself a base sufficiently firm and broad to raise a dramatic writer's reputation upon.

In the winter of 1798 we find our author exercising his versatile talents in a new line, by the production of *BLUE-BEARD; or, Female Curiosity, a Dramatic Romance*, at Drury-lane theatre; sketched, as the author tells us in his prefatory advertisement, to supply the want of a pantomime, at a period of the
season

season when the younger part of the audience would feel a severe disappointment if they were not invited to a harlequinade, or some other splendid spectacle. Our author must not, in what is said of this sketch, be tried by those rules of criticism which apply to comedy or farce; he is here no more than a pantomime poet, but a most successful one he proved himself. He refers the reader of the printed book of the dialogue, songs, and chorusses, to the works of that popular author for children, Mother Goose, to whom he dedicates *Blue-beard*; and that learned lady's fame ought to be dear to the proprietor of Drury-lane theatre, since the popularity of this drama was so great, and the receipts of the theatre so abundant, as often as it has been performed, that our author may literally be said to have handed to the managers "the Goose that laid the golden eggs." *Blue-beard* was certainly *got up* (as it is termed in the phrase of the theatre) with great pains, and at no limitation of expence. The combined skill of the composer, the machinist, and the scene-painter, rendered it one of the grandest spectacles ever exhibited on an English stage: it is no wonder, therefore, that it equally captivated the holiday folks, and "children of a larger growth;" the familiarity of the story naturally added to its celebrity, and it will doubtless continue popular as long as Mother Goose's Tales shall be read and remembered.

The extraordinary success of *BLUE-BEARD* induced the managers to apply to our author to furnish them the next season with another spectacle, and he produced

duced a dramatic romance under the title of *FEUDAL TIMES*, which was also splendid, and well got up. It brought a good deal of money to the theatre; but from not being founded on a story so well known as that of *Blue-Beard*, it did not prove so lastingly attractive.

Our author has since hastily mixed up a farce of two acts, which is a great favourite with the town: it is called *THE REVIEW, or, the Wags of Windsor*, and contains the characters of an Irishman of the lower order, and a Yorkshireman of the same rank in point of knowledge, which are so admirably drawn, and so whimsically coloured, that the most rigid cynic could not keep his muscles unmoved at their humour. They are both strictly natural characters, and are most irresistibly laughable. *Caleb Quotem* is also a highly diverting character, founded in broad farce; but it is borrowed from an after-piece of another writer, produced a few seasons before, which did not then prove successful. *The Review*, upon the whole, is as pleasant a farce as any on the stage.

The last comedy our author produced is the *Poor Gentleman*, a play of very considerable merit, but not deemed equal to the *Heir at Law*. The character of Ollapod is bold and eccentric, most whimsically conceived, and most happily finished. The confusion of expression resulting from the jumble of three distinct styles of speaking, and two of them professionally technical, produces a most happy stage effect, and has not, that we at the moment recol-

lect, a precedent on the modern stage. Sir Robert Bromley also, and honest Worthington and his daughter, are well sustained and amiable characters; and nobody, who admires Sterne's writings, can recognize the features and character of their old acquaintance Corporal Trim, without being delighted with Mr. Colman's Corporal, and his fighting over his battles upon recollection, with such spirit and glee. The *Poor Gentleman* was very favourably received, and is never played without being honoured with great applause.

Mr. Colman also wrote a one-act piece, called *Blue Devils* (taken from the French of *Patrat*). It was originally produced to assist a favourite comedian (Mr. Fawcet) on his benefit night, but it is still occasionally acted among the stock-list of the Haymarket theatre.

Our author has written prologues, epilogues, songs, and poetical addresses out of number; of which it may fairly be said,

“*Sunt bona, sunt quædam mediocra—*”

but they do not warrant more of the quotation.

Having shewn that our author's talents, as Polonius says of the actors, are equally adapted

“For comedy, history, pastoral, pastoral-comical, historical-pastoral, scene indivisible, or poem unlimited,”

it remains for us to state, that, a few years since, he published some slipshod tales, under the title of *My Night Gown and Slippers*, which have this year been republished with additions, under the title of *Broad Grins*

Grim; a name peculiarly appropriate to their strong humour.

He is now writing a five-act comedy for Covent-garden theatre; and by the new plan of opening the Haymarket theatre on the 15th of May, the day on which his licence commences, recently announced to the public, he has evidently provided himself with sufficient work for the exertion of all his powers, for some years to come.

His license has been so unmercifully broke in upon and its period abridged, of late years, by the unusual protraction of the winter theatres' seasons, that we are not surprised at his venturing to carry into effect a necessary act of self-defence: the project is certainly a bold one; but the attempt can scarcely fail of success, if our author will but make the necessary exertions. The great weight and difficulty of the object in its commencement will necessarily depend chiefly upon himself. The collecting a new company of comedians will be easily accomplished; and as the plan, should it succeed, cannot fail to contribute highly to the novelty and variety of the public amusements, they doubtless will shew their usual kind indulgence to young and rising merit, knowing that they may safely rely on the skill and ability of our author, who with his father have been the established drill-serjeants of the London theatrical troops, and have taught many of the most able soldiers of the scene their exercise, previous to their entering the ranks, and doing duty with the regulars of the line, who appear under the

command of Generals Sheridan and Harris, who are placed by royal commission at the head of the household troops.

DR. JAMES GREGORY.

PROFESSOR OF THE PRACTICE OF PHYSIC IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

IT has been remarked, that the appearance of a man, whose pre-eminence in any branch of literature and science not only precludes emulation, but far distances his contemporaries, frequently proves hurtful to the general cultivation of that particular branch of knowledge. The sublimity of Newton's talents was so transcendent, that it required mathematicians of the greatest abilities to explain his writings, and fill up the chasm intervening between ordinary conceptions and exalted genius. Newton is without a rival, and, on considering the immense task of reaching the boundary of his powers, we had almost added, without a successor; for no one will venture to assert, that, since his time, the improvements in the higher parts of mathematics have been so progressive as to admit a comparison with those in other sciences. It has also been observed, that the celebrity of a father is injurious to the literary reputation of a son. The successor of Linnæus was a respectable scholar, and a man of an amiable character; but the merit of the great naturalist threw a shade over the abilities of his descendant. We forbear mentioning similar instances

stances of the present time, because it might be considered as invidious. Although by these preliminary remarks we do not mean, in the faintest degree, to insinuate that the gentleman who is the subject of this biography has degenerated from the worth of his immediate ancestor, yet the great and well merited fame of the latter has not contributed to exalt that of his son.

The family of Gregory have enjoyed, for nearly two centuries, a distinguished name in the republic of letters, and been particularly eminent for mathematical knowledge. This singular circumstance will be a sufficient apology for our giving a concise history, or rather a genealogical enumeration, of most of the individuals of this learned family. Every one, engaged in the pursuits of literature, must have experienced an occasional difficulty in ascertaining the productions of men, who are near relatives, bear the same name, have distinguished themselves by their works, and obtained similar academic honours. We might instance the family of Munro, whose multifarious works on the art and science of medicine it is no easy task to distinguish, and assign to their proper authors.

James Gregory, the great grandfather of the present Dr. James Gregory, was one of the ablest mathematicians of the last century. His mother was a daughter of Mr. David Anderson of Finzaugh, who possessed a peculiar turn for mathematical and mechanical enquiry. Alexander Anderson, the cousin-german of David, was professor of mathematics at the

university of Paris in the beginning of the seventeenth century, and the author of the *Supplementum Appollonii redivivi*, published in 1612. The mother of Gregory inherited the genius of her family, and, observing a strong propensity to mathematics in her son, instructed him herself in the elements of that science. At the age of twenty-four, he published his *Optica Promota*, (London, 1663) in which he communicated a new invention of his own, the construction of the reflecting telescope, which has so much benefited optics and astronomy. Soon after its publication, he went to Padua, where he resided some years, and published, in 1667, his *Vera Circuli et Hyperbolæ Quadraturæ*. In this work he gave the world another new invention of his own, we mean, that of an infinitely converging series for the areas of the circle and hyperbola. To a republication of this treatise in 1668, he added a tract, intitled, *Geometriæ pars universalis, inserviens quantitatum curvarum transmutationi et mensuræ*, containing the first known method for the transmutation of curves. In 1668, Mr. Gregory published, at London, his *Exercitationes Geometricæ*; and about the same period he was appointed professor of mathematics in the university of St. Andrew's. From thence he was called, in 1674, to fill the mathematical chair at Edinburgh; and in 1675, while he was employed in shewing the satellites of Jupiter through a telescope to some of his pupils, he was suddenly struck with total blindness, and died a few days after, at the early age of thirty-seven.

His

His brother, Mr. David Gregory, of Kinnairdy, who spent the greater part of his life as a merchant in Holland, but latterly returned to Scotland, had the satisfaction to see three of his sons, David, James, and Charles, all professors of mathematics at the same time in three of the universities of Britain. David, the eldest, was born at Aberdeen, in 1661, but educated at Edinburgh, where he was elected in 1683 professor of mathematics, and published in the same year his *Exercitatio Geometrica de Dimensione Figurarum*, &c. quarto. He was the first who introduced the Newtonian philosophy at Edinburgh. By the patronage of Newton and Mr. Flamstead, the astronomer royal, he obtained the Savilian professorship of astronomy at Oxford, vacant by the resignation of Dr. Barnard. Dr. Halley was the competitor of Gregory for that chair: but this rivalry produced no animosity between those two eminent scholars: the Doctor soon after became his colleague, by obtaining the professorship of geometry. Previous to his nomination, Mr. Gregory had the degree of Doctor of Physic conferred on him by that university. Besides several papers in the Philosophical Transactions, he printed at Oxford his work, intitled, *Catoptricæ Dioptricæ, et Sphericæ, Elementa*. It contains the substance of the lectures he read at Edinburgh. In 1702, he published at Oxford his *Astronomiæ, Physicæ, et Geometricæ, Elementa*, and in the following year edited the works of Euclid, in Greek and Latin, folio. He died in 1710, while engaged in publishing, in conjunction with Dr. Halley, the Conics of Apollo-

nus. Besides some other posthumous works he left in manuscript his *Treatise of Practical Geometry*, which was translated and published by Mr. Maclaurin, in 1745, and has gone through several editions. His eldest son David, was appointed Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford, and died in 1767.

On the removal of Dr. David Gregory to Oxford he was succeeded in his professorship at Edinburgh by his brother James, who was also an eminent mathematician, and whose chair, on his resignation in 1725, was given to the celebrated Maclaurin.

Charles Gregory, the third son of Mr. Gregory of Kinnairdy, and brother of Dr. David and James, was created professor of Mathematics at St. Andrew's in 1707, and on his resignation in 1739, was succeeded by his son David Gregory, who died in 1763.

Professor James Gregory, whom he have already mentioned as the inventor of the Gregorian telescope, had a son, Dr. James Gregory, who held the professorship of medicine in King's College, Aberdeen. James, the eldest son of the last mentioned gentleman, likewise obtained the degree of M. D. and succeeded his father as professor of medicine in the same university.

The second son was the amiable and much lamented Dr. John Gregory, father of the present professor, Dr. James Gregory. These two brothers were indebted for their early instruction to the care and attention of their cousin, the celebrated Dr. Reid of Glasgow; and John, in particular, to the tuition of his grandfather, the Rev. Mr. George Chalmers,
Principal

Principal of King's College, whose only daughter was the second wife of their father. After attending the medical lectures at Edinburgh, Mr. John Gregory went to Leyden, in 1745, where he studied under the celebrated professors Gaubius, Albinus, and Van Royen. While he resided there, the King's College of Aberdeen bestowed on him the degree of Doctor of Medicine, and soon after, on his return from Holland, he was elected Professor of Philosophy in that university. He resigned that office in 1749, with an intent to settle as a physician at Aberdeen; previous, however, to his doing so, he went for a few months to the continent. Resolving afterwards to try his fortune in London, he settled there in 1754; but in the year following, the professorship of physic in King's College becoming vacant by the death of his brother, he was invited to succeed him, and accepted of the office.

In 1764, he published his *Comparative View of the State and Faculties of Man with those of the Animal World*. This work was considerably enlarged by the author in a second edition. He was appointed Professor of the Practice of Physic in the University of Edinburgh, on the resignation of Dr. Rutherford, in 1766. In that station he gave lectures for the three ensuing years; and afterwards, by agreement with Dr. Cullen, Professor of the Theory of Physic, these two distinguished scholars gave alternate courses of the theory and practice. Dr. Gregory's introductory discourses were published in 1770, under the title of *Lectures on the Duties and Qualifications of a Physician*

Physician, of which an enlarged and more perfect edition appeared in 1772. In this year he likewise published his *Elements of the Practice of Physic for the Use of Students*. It was meant as a text book to be commented on in the course of his lectures. He died suddenly in February 1773, having gone to bed in apparent health, but was found lifeless in the morning. His death was attributed to an instantaneous paroxysm of the gout, which disease he inherited from his mother, who had expired with equal suddenness, while sitting at table. The inestimable work, *A Father's Legacy to his Daughters*, which has been translated into several languages, was published by his eldest son after the author's death.

After this biographical recapitulation of an ancestry distinguished for scientific talents, the reader will be prepared to expect that their successors have not ceased to perpetuate the literary reputation of their family : and his expectations will not be disappointed. Dr. John Gregory left three sons and two daughters. His second son William, of Baliol College, Oxford, obtained the Rectory of St. Mary, Breadman, and was appointed one of the six preachers in the cathedral church of Canterbury. John, the youngest, died in 1783.

The eldest son, James (the subject of the following biography), was born at Aberdeen, in January, 1753, and received the rudiments of his education at the grammar-school of that place. His assiduity and progress in his early studies are apparent from the classical latinity of a work of his, which we shall hereafter

Hereafter have occasion to mention. He spent the winter of 1764 at King's College, Aberdeen, in learning the Greek language. From that seminary he was removed next season to the university of Edinburgh, and in the winter of 1766 was entered at Christ Church Oxford. Here he studied under the immediate care of his cousin, the late Rev. Dr. David Gregory, Dean of Christ Church, in whose house he resided. On the death of this relation, Mr. Gregory was recalled to Edinburgh by his father in the end of 1767.

Immediately on his return he resumed his studies, and continued at that university till the winter of 1773, when he was sent to London in order to prosecute his medical education. In June 1774, he obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the College of Edinburgh, after which he went abroad, where he spent the rest of that year, and the whole of the ensuing. In the course of this tour he visited Holland, France, and Italy; and, during the latter part of it, through the two countries last mentioned was accompanied by Mr. Macdonald, now Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

To a mind like Dr. Gregory's, stored with the literature of Greece and Rome, and habituated to investigation, a journey on the continent, in search of medical knowledge, could not fail to prove of incalculable utility. It is by observing the diversified modes of nations in the sciences and arts, that the individual attains a liberality of sentiment, and is enabled to select what is useful as the basis of future improvement,

provement. A physician, whose felicity of circumstances enables him to undertake a continental tour, is less inclined to adopt hypotheses, than the man who is accustomed only to one method of practice. Dr. Gregory is a striking example of the truth of this observation: Wedded to no system, attached to no sect, he courts truth under the guidance of common sense, illumined by science, and is inclined, to place greater confidence in the genial efforts of nature than is generally admitted by practitioners.

He returned to Britain in December 1775. In February following he was admitted a *licentiate* of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and, in June that year was appointed professor of the Theory of Physic in that university. Academical honours now began to flow on him. In February 1777, he was admitted a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and officiated many years as their Secretary. That learned body nominated him to fill the President's chair in December 1798, and in 1799 re-elected him to the same office. The new but promising institutions of the Royal Medical and Physical Societies of Edinburgh chose him an honorary member. He had been a Fellow of the Royal Society ever since its commencement, and for several years officiated as one of the Secretaries of the physical class. Previous to this, he had acted in the same capacity in the Philosophical Society, which was incorporated with the Royal Society.

While he held the chair of the Theory of Physic, he drew up a syllabus of his lectures for the use of the
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the students. This work was published in Latin in 1780, under the title of *Conspectus Medicinæ Theoreticæ ad usum Academicum*. Since that time two editions of it have appeared in two volumes octavo. An idea of the mental powers of a writer may be formed from an inspection of his table of contents. If we find in it a *lucidus ordo*, an intimate connection of parts, we may fairly infer that the author possesses a logical head, which is the prime requisite in scientific disquisitions. The work of Dr. Gregory is in the highest repute: its style is classical, its doctrines invaluable, and its arrangement judicious.

When the venerable Cullen retired, Dr. Gregory was selected to fill his station as Professor of the Practice of Physic. It is not possible to mention the name of Cullen without feeling a sentiment of regret. The consummate knowledge of that illustrious professor, and his pre-eminent merit, raised the university to the first station among medical seminaries, at least we may boast of its being *nulli secunda*. His memory is dear to men of science in every country, and will be for ever revered by all Scotchmen who feel for the honour of their native land. It was certainly a flattering testimony of the talents of Dr. Gregory to be nominated successor to a person who enjoyed such colossal fame. A man of a timid disposition would have shrunk from a situation where he was in momentary danger of being compared with his great predecessor. But the Doctor, not intimidated by the magnitude of the task, felt a manly confidence in his own abilities; and although he has not attained

tained the lustre which irradiated the name of Cullen, he has filled the academic chair with respectability and increasing reputation. In December 1799, he was appointed first physician to his Majesty in Scotland, an office become vacant by the death of Dr. Black.

A philological paper by Dr. Gregory, on the theory of the moods of verbs, has been published in the second part (p. 193—250) among the papers of the literary class (of vol. ii.) of the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. In this essay the author advances his observations with modesty : and although he characterizes them as imperfect and desultory, no one will hesitate to stile them ingenious and useful. In the course of some philological and philosophical speculations, he had remarked a want of sufficiently precise and distinct notions of the general import of the moods of verbs, a hasty and careless admission of certain general principles not duly ascertained, and a vague use of certain general and comprehensive terms not sufficiently explained or understood. In discussing the mode least adapted to avoid these errors, and supply defects, it was necessary to adopt a plan similar to that so long successfully employed in physical investigations; namely, by beginning with a collection of observations relative to the moods of verbs, from these deducing certain general principles, and verifying them by further observation, and even experiment. The learned and worthy author of the Treatise on the Origin and Progress of Language, although an able philologist,

gist, was occasionally led astray by his imagination. In his second volume he investigates, but not satisfactorily, the number, the nature and the import of the moods of verbs. It was Dr. Gregory's object to supply what was wanting in Lord Monboddo's treatise, and extend the investigation farther than he had done.

It does not accord with the nature of this work to enter into a detail of the Doctor's remarks : we shall however, be pardoned for mentioning one of his observations, as it is both ingenious and novel. It is well known, that some of the moods are resolvable into circumlocutionary expressions by means of other auxiliary verbs, and that in fact all are, in some measure, convertible, though strictly speaking not resolvable, in this manner. Thus the use of moods in shortening expressions is obvious, while it renders language peculiarly impressive, and facilitates mental comprehension. This remark the Doctor happily illustrates by assimilating the use of the moods of verbs to that of diagrams in mathematics and characters in algebra, all which suggest instantaneously, as it were, the whole congeries of thought.

In 1792, his philosophical and literary essays, in two volumes octavo, were published. He informs us in the introduction, that this work is only part of a much more extensive and important undertaking : *An essay towards an Investigation of the exact Import, and Extent of the common Notion of the Relation of Cause and Effect in Physics, and of the real Nature of that Relation.* These two volumes contain only one
essay,

essay, *On the Difference between the Relation of Motive and Action, and that of Cause and Effect in Physics, on physical and mathematical Principles.* When this work appeared, it excited a considerable bustle in the literary world. The bold assertions of the author, his peculiar mode of reasoning, his occasional display of an inclination to dogmatize, and still more his intrepid defiance to the abettors of philosophical necessity, drew from his opponents answers equally resolute. To contradict, however, is not to confute; and the main question still remains undecided. Dr. Gregory will, it is hoped, avail himself of the productions of his adversaries in correcting where correction is necessary, and in strengthening his arguments against their attacks. It is by the collision of sentiment that truth is elicited; and we with pleasure infer, from the determined tone of our author, that he will favour the world with a continuation of his important researches, and not be discouraged by the difficulties or the mental tedium ever attending metaphysical disquisition.

The practice of applying mathematical demonstration to metaphysics is certainly not new; but the peculiar manner in which it is done by Dr. Gregory has the merit of originality. Those who maintain the doctrine of necessity cannot object to mathematical reasoning, for their tenets not merely assimilate the operations of thought, the volitions and actions of men to the phenomena of the material world, but connect them as intimately as physical cause and effect. If Dr. Gregory has not completely
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refuted his antagonists, he has at least weakened their arguments, and introduced a more conclusive mode of reasoning. The inference he finally draws from the arguments he advances is, that the influence of motives is not irresistible, and that there is, in living persons, a certain independent and self-governing power.

At the close of the Introduction, the author narrates a correspondence with Mr. Cooper and Dr. Priestley. Before publishing his essay, Dr. Gregory submitted it, in the course of the eight preceding years, to the consideration of more than thirty different gentlemen, many of them enjoying distinguished eminence as men of science, whose sentiments he wished to learn. To Drs. Price and Priestley he took the liberty of transmitting printed copies for their perusal and remarks; at the same time declaring his intention to suppress the work, if they should advance valid objections to the deductions he had made: this was in Midsummer 1789. About four months afterwards he received a letter from Dr. Price, containing several observations on it, and expressing his approbation of, and acquiescence in, the justness of its demonstration. Dr. Priestley regretted that the essay had not come into his hands during his discussion of the doctrine of necessity, and pleaded the multiplicity of his literary occupations, and his doubts of having leisure in the course of that year, or previous to the time of the intended publication of the essay, to give sufficient attention to a subject on which he had long ceased to read or to

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think; but added, that, if his leisure permitted, he would communicate any remarks that might occur to him on perusing it, and that might appear to be of importance.

As no further notice of the matter was taken by Dr. Priestley, this neglect seems to have produced an irritation of mind in Dr. Gregory, who, in a letter to the former (24th June 1791), expressed his dissatisfaction in language perhaps too warm, and challenged that celebrated necessarian either to refute or admit his inferences, to try them experimentally, and to abide by the result. "It is fair and it is necessary on my part," observes our author, "to warn you, that by the publication of my essay you will find yourself loudly called on to vindicate your character, not merely in point of understanding as a philosopher, but in point of probity and veracity as a man. My essay, as you will perceive by the tenor of it, is given, not merely as a demonstration that the doctrine of necessity is erroneous and absurd, but as a proof (as complete and decisive as ever was or ever can be given of *mala fides* in any case), that few, if any, of those who asserted it, had really believed it, and consequently that most or all of the assertors of it had been guilty of a most shameful imposition on mankind."

Dr. Priestley's answer (30th June 1791) was cautiously temperate, and concluded in these words. "As to your calling upon me to vindicate my probity and veracity, and to defend myself from the charge of *mala fides*, and of being guilty of a most
"shameful

“shameful imposition on mankind, to which you
 “say I cannot be indifferent, I do assure you, that I
 “have been so much used to charges of this nature,
 “that I am perfectly so. I am myself satisfied with
 “what I have written on this subject, and I have
 “long been in the habit of making myself easy as
 “to every thing else. P. S. Mr. Cooper has your
 “book, and, as we are at a great distance from each
 “other, I have had no opportunity of looking into
 “it.”

Here the correspondence terminated. We cannot forbear mentioning a strange inconsistency in Dr. Priestley. When he was thus invited to read a work on a subject he had publicly discussed, and to give his opinion, however concise, he declined opening it, and pleaded an important pursuit in hand. Yet he felt no hesitation in insisting on Gibbon's perusing his Church History, and in challenging the historian to a religious controversy. Gibbon very wisely rejected the defiance, not however without reminding the clerical champion of the dogmatical spirit of priests and their insensibility to argument. All the Doctor's letters and reiterated importunities were unavailing; Gibbon would not be teased into compliance; on which account the former revenged himself, by publishing the correspondence.

Dr. Gregory is a man of a convivial disposition and great companionable qualities; his stature is tall, and his person athletic. We have heard him extolled for his benevolence and ardent patronage of merit. In his medical character, he is the avowed

enemy of all hypothetical systems, and never loses an opportunity of expressing a thorough contempt for all the frivolous disputes of physicians, and their too frequent affectation of mystery in scientific matters.

During that blaze of loyalty which, in 1794, illuminated the kingdom of Scotland, the citizens of Edinburgh eagerly enrolled themselves into military corps for the preservation of the constitution. The first regiment of Royal Edinburgh Volunteers, which is composed of the better sort of the inhabitants, and on that account regarded as the *acme* of loyalty, was embodied in July, that year. Dr. Gregory was one of the first on the list, and carried a musket as a private grenadier.

When, in February 1797, it was thought necessary to form several additional battalions, Dr. Gregory received a captaincy in the second battalion of the second regiment of Royal Edinburgh Volunteers.

In 1781, Dr. Gregory married Miss Ross, daughter of James Ross, Esq. of Stranraer. By this lady, who died in 1784, he had no children. Twelve years afterwards, he married Miss M'Leod, daughter of Donald M'Leod, of Geanies; by whom he has a family. Thus in the tranquil bosom of domestic felicity, and the enjoyment of lettered ease, he maintains an elegant establishment in life, respected by those in a more elevated station, beloved by his friends, and universally esteemed for his virtues.

DUKE OF BRIDGWATER.

FRANCIS EGERTON, Duke of Bridgwater, is the fifth son of Scroop, first Duke of that name, by Lady Rachel Russel; was born in 1736, and, by the death of his brothers, succeeded to the title and estate in 1748. His Grace has rendered himself conspicuous by being the patron, and, it may be said, the father of a most important public undertaking, which must in the end be attended with the greatest national benefit. He was the first man who countenanced the plan and supported the expence of cutting a navigable canal in this kingdom.

This great project he had digested in his mind before he was of age, and as soon as he came in possession of his fortune, proceeded to put it in execution.

Among other estates, he had one at Worsley in the county of Lancaster, rich in coal-mines; but which, on account of the expence of land-carriage, although the rich and flourishing town of Manchester was so near, was of little value. Desirous of working these mines to advantage, he formed the plan of a navigable canal from his own estate at Worsley to Manchester.

For this purpose he consulted the ingenious Mr. Brindley, who had already given some specimens of his wonderful abilities, on the probability of executing such a work. That artist, having surveyed the ground, at once pronounced it to be practicable.

Accordingly, in the session of parliament 1758-9,

the Duke applied for a bill to make a navigable canal from Salford, near Manchester, to Worsley. His Grace met with great opposition in its passage through the two Houses, and it would now appear inconceivable that such strong prejudices should have been entertained against a plan of public utility, so apparently advantageous. The Duke, however, succeeded, and immediately set about his work, which appeared to promise so well, that the next year he applied for, and obtained another act to enable him to extend the line, and to pass from Worsley over the river Irwell, near Barton-bridge, to the town of Manchester.

The Duke of Bridgwater has not only the merit of having had spirit to commence works of such immense magnitude, but also for having called into action the great abilities of the late Mr. James Brindley, who, with little aid from education, and less knowledge of the mathematics, planned and executed works which would have done honour to the first and best informed artists.

This canal begins on Worsley mill, about seven computed miles from Manchester, where the Duke cut a bason capable of holding all his boats, and a great body of water which serves as a reservoir or head for his navigation. The canal enters a hill by a subterraneous passage big enough for the admission of flat bottom boats, which are towed along by hand rails, near a mile under ground, to his coal works; then the passage divides into two, both of which may be continued at pleasure. This passage is in some places

places cut through the solid rock, and in others is arched with brick. Air funnels are cut in several places to the top of the hill. The arch at the entrance is about six feet wide, and widens in some places for the boats to pass each other : the boats are loaded from waggons which run on railed ways. Five or six of these boats, which carry seven tons each, are drawn along by one horse to Manchester.

The canal in other places is carried over public roads by means of arches, and where it is too high the road is lowered with a gentle descent, and rises again on the other side. But one of the most stupendous works on this canal is the noble aqueduct over the river Irwell, where the canal runs forty feet above the river, and where the Duke's barges are seen passing on the canal, and the vessels in the river in full sail under them. At Barton-bridge, three miles from Worsley, this aqueduct begins, and is carried for upwards of two hundred yards over a valley ; and at the Irwell it is about forty feet above the level of the river. When the works approached this spot, they were viewed by several artists, who pronounced the completion impracticable, and one surveyor went so far as to call it *building a castle in the air*. The Duke was repeatedly advised to drop the business, but, confiding in the assurances of Mr. Brindley, he persevered, and the aqueduct over the river Irwell will remain as a monument of the public spirit of the Duke of Bridgwater, and the abilities of the artist, for ages.

In this canal are many stops and flood-gates, so

contrived, that should any of the banks give way, the flood-gates rise by the motion, and prevent any great quantity of water from overflowing the country. The aqueduct is constructed at a considerable labour and expence. Indeed, the Duke had resolved that in the execution of this work no expence should be spared, and that every thing should be complete; and that, to avoid locks, the canal should be constructed on a level, to accomplish which many difficulties occurred, which, to any genius less fertile than Brindley's, would have been insurmountable.

The aqueduct which is carried over meadows on each side the Mersey, and cross Sale Moor, at incredible expence, required of Brindley all the exertions of his art, and deserves to be noticed. He first caused trenches to be made, and then placed deal barks in an upright position, backing and supporting them with other barks laid lengthways and in rows, driving in some thousands of oak piles of different lengths between them, on the front side of which he threw the clay and carth, and rammed them together to form the canal. Having thus finished forty yards, he removed the barks and proceeded as before.

At Stratford the caisson was forty yards long and thirty-two broad. Open bottomed boats were employed in this caisson to carry and discharge loads of earth, and thereby raise the ground where the level required it. At Cambroke is a circular wear to keep the water of the canal to its proper height; the surplus flows over the nave of a circle in the middle of the wear, and, by a subterraneous tunnel, is conveyed

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to the usual channels. In order to feed that end of the navigation which is near Manchester, Brindley raised the river Medlock by a large and beautiful wear built of stone, bedded in terrass, and clamped with iron. The water, when at a proper height to supply the navigation, flows over the nave.

In short this canal is carried over rivers and vallies, and no obstacle seems to have been capable of impeding Brindley in the execution of his plan. The ingenuity and contrivance displayed throughout the whole is wonderful. The smiths' forges, carpenters' and masons' workshops, were all on covered barges, which floated on the canal and followed the work from place to place.

Having completed this work in the year 1760, the whole was opened in presence of the Duke, many of his friends, and a vast concourse of people from every part of the country, with great ceremony and rejoicing; and his Grace had the satisfaction to see the extraordinary man he had patronised, succeed even beyond his hopes.

But the Duke's designs were not confined to this canal. On a further survey and taking levels, he found it practicable to extend it from Longford-bridge to the river Mersey; and, in 1762, he applied for another act of parliament to carry that object into effect. Here, also, he met with a strong and ill-judged opposition, but at length succeeded, and the success of this undertaking is another proof of the Duke's judgment. The whole length from Worsley to Manchester is twenty-nine miles; there
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is not any fall on the whole line, except at Runcorn, into the river Mersey, where there are locks which convey the boats down ninety-four feet into the river in a very short space of time. The whole was completed in about five years.

But what is seen above ground is only a part of the Duke's stupendous undertaking. His mines run under a large mountain, and a subterraneous passage is cut in the hill to an amazing extent, which, being level with the canal, is used to convey out the boats.

It is not uncommon for travellers to visit the sides of the canal to satisfy their curiosity by entering these subterraneous passages. A short account of one of these visits may with propriety be introduced here, as not only descriptive of this great work, but which may serve to convey an idea of other mines.

" You enter with lighted candles the subterraneous passage in a boat : in this manner you proceed up the canal to the lake at the head of the mine, distant three quarters of a mile. The two folding doors at the mouth are immediately shut on your entrance, to keep out too much air, if the wind blows ; and you then proceed by the light of your candles, which cast a livid gloom, serving only to make darkness visible. But this dismal gloom is rendered still more awful by the solemn echo of this subterraneous lake, which returns various and discordant sounds. At one moment you are struck by the grating noise of engines, which by a curious contrivance let down the coals into the boats. At another you hear the shock of an explosion,

“ plosion, occasioned by blowing up the hard rock,
“ which will not yield to any other force than that of
“ gunpowder; immediately after which, perhaps,
“ your ears are saluted by the songs of merriment
“ from either sex, who thus beguile their labours in
“ the mine. When you reach the head of the mine,
“ a new scene opens to your view. You behold
“ men and women, almost in their primitive state of
“ nature, toiling in different capacities by the glim-
“ mering of a dim taper, some digging the jetty ore
“ out of the bowels of the earth, some loading it
“ into little waggons for that purpose, others draw-
“ ing the waggons to the boats.”

To enter further into a detail of the Duke's works is unnecessary; it is sufficient to say they have fully answered his purpose. An idea may be formed of the immense profit arising from this undertaking by a recent event. When the loan, commonly called the Loyalty Loan, was negotiating, his Grace was able to subscribe for, and actually paid down immediately, the sum of 100,000*l*. Besides the Duke's concern in this canal, he has been a liberal promoter and subscriber to that great work, the grand trunk navigation, which extends from his own navigation at Preston-brook to the river Trent, near Derby. He is, indeed, so convinced of the utility of these kinds of undertakings, as to be always ready to assist with his parliamentary influence the furthering of any well-digested plan.

In politics, the Duke of Bridgwater has not taken any active part. Yet we sometimes find him at his place

place in the House of Peers. In 1762 his name is in the division, on a motion to withdraw the British troops from Germany, and on the loss of the motion joining in a protest. When the repeal of the American Stamp Act was in agitation, his Grace was a strong opposer of that measure; and in 1784, when a certain powerful interest was made use of to prevent Mr. Fox's India Bill from passing into a law, the Duke was active therein. In general his politics have been guided by that of his noble brother-in-law the Marquis of Stafford.

DR. WILLIAM MAVOR.*

THE public is naturally inquisitive respecting those who have amused or instructed it; and though the man may be solitary and neglected, the author of merit is read, admired, and esteemed. Few have written more, or, generally, with more ability, than the subject of these slight memoirs; and if his multifarious productions do not all bear the stamp of superior excellence and the highest degrees of genius, they uniformly bespeak a feeling heart, and an ardent desire to promote the cause of religion, morals, social order, and science.

William Mavor was born on the first of August, 1758, in the parish of New Deer, Aberdeen. His family, by the father's side, had been seated for some

* Pronounced in the North like the Welch *Mawr*, and originally spelt the same.

generations at Turreff, and by intermarriages are connected with the Gordons, the Fordyces, and the Wemysses. They were generally nonjurors or jacobites, distinctions happily now no more, and had all the prejudices and partialities of the party to which they adhered ; but such was the respect paid to their virtuous conduct in private life, that though William Mavor of Turreff, the great uncle of the gentleman now under consideration, was the unfortunate cause of the surprize of the King's troops at Inverary, in the rebellion of 1745, by his intercepting dispatches, and forwarding them to Lord Lewis Gordon at Aberdeen, the most respectable gentlemen in the vicinity, who were warmly attached to the family on the throne, came forward to screen him from punishment ; and, after lying some time in the Tower of London, together with his eldest son, they were both set at liberty. The latter remained in London, where he married and settled, and one of his daughters was keeper of the wardrobe to the late Princess Amelia.

By the mother's side, Dr. Mavor is allied to the Lewis and Robertson families, originally of much respectability in Buchan ; but, by a fatality which is common in this transitory world, his relations on both sides had been dwindling in fortune, though not in character. The parents of our author, eminent only for virtuous conduct and sensibility, of which latter quality they entailed too large a portion on their son, finding his propensity to learning, gave him a good education, partly at the school of New Deer, and partly at Turreff, a town of which he has always
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spoken with a fond enthusiasm. At this last mentioned place, his opening faculties were enlarged, and his native talents called into action, by an acquaintance with some young men of much worth and erudition, particularly Francis Duncan, lately an eminent physician in the East Indies, and Francis Garden of Delgaty, nephew to the late Lord Gardenstone.

At a very early period of life, as it appears from his poems, printed in 1793, Dr. Mavor shewed a partiality for the muses, and science and learning in general often occupied those hours which the less assiduous devote either to play or to sleep. After obtaining a competent classical education, though we are uncertain what time he spent at the university, a desire of pushing his fortune, or at least of providing for himself, induced him to bid adieu to his native country, which he did on the day that the battle of Bunker's Hill was fought. In his pathetic poem, entitled the *Complaint of a Heart*, printed in the Ladies Museum, Number XIX. we find the following stanzas, which we believe to be as just as they are poetic:

The duteous son—No sad parental tear
 Drawn from the orbits of affection, fell;
 The only pang my parents had to bear,
 Was when we parted, at the word—farewell!

When young in life, and forc'd to guess my road,
 Without one friend to save my bark from harm,
 The world receiv'd me in its vast abode,
 And honest toil procur'd its plaudits warm.

After a short stay in London, Dr. Mavor engaged himself as classical assistant to a respectable boarding-school at Burford in Oxfordshire, being then barely seventeen years of age ; but in point of height and manly appearance much beyond his years. In this laborious and sedentary profession, which in some measure laid the foundation of those nervous complaints which have so much harassed and afflicted him in subsequent periods of his life, he remained for nearly seven years, prosecuting his studies with unwearied application, and occasionally visiting the university of Oxford, where he contracted some valuable friendships. Among the rest, it was his good fortune to be noticed by the late John Smith, M. D. Savilian professor of geometry, who introduced him to the amiable and learned Dr. Bathurst, canon of Christchurch ; a man of whose friendship any person has reason to be proud, because it can only be gained by virtue and talents.

Having resolved to enter into holy orders, after passing through the previous examinations with applause, he was ordained, as soon as he was of canonical age, in autumn 1781, in the cathedral of Christchurch, by Dr. Butler, now Bishop of Hereford. Among those who took orders at the same time was the present Sir Herbert Croft, Baronet. Soon after this, he opened an academy at Woodstock, in which he met with tolerable success ; but it is often found that a liberal and ingenuous mind can ill stoop to avail itself of advantages which are sometimes made in such a situation by more mercenary dispositions ;
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and, notwithstanding his diligence and frugal manners, his fortune was little bettered by his school. It enabled him to maintain an honest independent character, and that was all. In 1782 he married, and has had six children, five sons and a daughter. His daughter and one of his sons died in infancy, yet he has pathetically lamented their loss; and his eldest son, a most promising youth, on the foundation of the Charter-house school, was lately carried off by a consumption.

His first curacy was Sarsden and Churchill: afterwards he served Great Barrington, where the late Countess of Talbot had a seat, and Teynton. These cures being too distant from his residence, though he punctually attended them on Sundays, he engaged to serve Westcote Barton, in which he has continued for upwards of fourteen years, at one time holding Stones Field with it, at another Kiddington, and for the last seven years Shipton on Cherwell. The late Thomas Warton, B. D. and Poet Laureate, was rector of Kiddington during the three or four years in which he served that church; and his connection with that amiable and distinguished scholar he has always mentioned as the most pleasant and satisfactory of his life. Mr. Warton paid him the respect due to a man of learning; and on some occasions had the goodness to give him his advice and opinion respecting his literary undertakings.

Dr. Mavor's situation at Woodstock naturally threw him under the notice of the Marlborough family, and he had the honour of being employed to assist in the education

education of Ladies Anne and Amelia, Lord Henry and Francis Spencer ; which engagements lasted for several years, though they did not in any material degree interfere with his private or public pursuits and studies. At Blenheim he was introduced to most of the friends of the family ; and from several of the highest rank and distinction, he met with the most flattering attentions, which might be pleasant to him as a gentleman, and of some service to him as an author, though we do not find that they have essentially promoted his advancement in the church.

In the year 1789, the university of Marischall college, Aberdeen, conferred on him, in the most handsome manner, the degree of LL. D. by diploma, to which he was presented by the illustrious Dr. Beattie. Whatever may be said of Scotch degrees in general, this was certainly honourable to both parties ; as it was wholly gratuitous on the part of the university, and paid solely as a compliment to useful talents and distinguished merit. In the same year the Duke of Marlborough presented Dr. Mavor to the vicarage of Hurley in Berkshire, worth about 100l. per annum. He was likewise appointed master of the grammar-school of Woodstock, and successively elected an honorary freeman of that borough, and a member of the common council. About seven years ago he was appointed one of the chaplains of the Earl of Dumfries ; and held the vicarage of Tyroc in Warwickshire, in the presentation of the Earl of Northampton, for about five years, when he resigned it to a friend.

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This is all the preferment that has hitherto fallen to his lot. He has often remarked, "that the man " who felt himself qualified to be a *friend*, would not " stoop to the meanness of becoming a *favourite*. " Though highly grateful for voluntary favours, his " mind could ill brook the earnestness of solicitation. " Perhaps he might feel that he deserved something " better; but by the industrious application of his " talents he has ever, when health permitted, endeavoured to compensate for the neglect of those who " had it in their power to raise him to that independence which his public and private exertions in " favour of government and social order seemed to " merit."

His publications have been very numerous, considering that he is now only in the forty-second year of his age. We believe the following is a pretty correct list. Most of them are still in daily use, and probably will long continue so, and all have been received with a considerable share of public applause. On the peculiar merits of living authors, it becomes us not to speak without reserve, lest flattery or prejudice should appear to guide the pen. Yet it may safely be affirmed, that the tendency of Dr. Mavor's works have all been strictly virtuous, and this alone is genuine fame, or can give real pleasure on a retrospect.

1. Universal Stenography, octavo, 1779.
2. Poetical Cheltenham Guide, 12mo. 1781.
3. Geographical Magazine, published under the adopted name of Martyn, 4to. 1781.
4. Dictionary of Natural History, do. folio, 1784.

5. New

5. New Description of Blenheim, with Blenheim, a Poem, 8vo. 1789.
6. Vindiciæ Landavenses; or, Strictures on the Bishop of Landaff's Charge, 4to. 1792.
7. Poems, 8vo. 1793, not yet published, printed for Robinsons.
8. Fast Day Sermon, 1793, 8vo.
9. Appendix to the Eton Grammar, 12mo. 1796.
10. Thanksgiving Sermon, 1797, 8vo.
11. Historical Account of Voyages, Travels, and Discoveries, in twenty volumes, 18mo. 1797.
12. British Tourists, in five volumes, 12mo. 1798.
13. Youth's Miscellany; or, a Father's Gift to his Children, two volumes, 12mo. 1798.
14. British Nepos, 12mo. 1798.
15. Natural History, for the Use of Schools, 12mo. 1799.
16. Young Gentleman and Lady's Magazine, edited and chiefly written by Dr. Mavor, two volumes, 12mo. 1799.
17. Lady's and Gentleman's Botanical Pocket Book, 12mo, 1800.
18. Plutarch's Lives Abridged, 12mo. 1800.
19. The Universal History, ancient and modern; to be completed in 25 volumes, 12mo.

Many papers and poems in the Gentleman's Magazine, Reviews, and other periodical publications, under various signatures, such as Morva, an anagram of Mavor, Numa's Letters in the St. James's Chronicle, &c. &c. were likewise written by Dr. Mavor. We have seen a letter of thanks to him from Mr. Secretary Dundas, for some suggestions respecting emigrants, and the dissemination of democratic principles; and it is a well known fact, that, in approbation of Dr. Mavor's principles, her Majesty lately ordered two complete sets of his works. His correspondence with literary and illustrious characters has,

if we are not misinformed, been pretty extensive. It appears from his letters and papers, that the idea of forming associations against levellers and republicans struck him before he knew of Mr. Reeves's plan, which he zealously supported, and he has corresponded with that gentleman on the occasion.

Such are the brief memoirs of this diligent scholar and very ingenious writer. The biographer is called upon to do justice to the amiable manners, philanthropy of heart, and engaging address of this gentleman. In a more enlarged sphere of action, and under a happier fortune, he might have shone with lustre; but Providence, alike just in what it gives and what it denies, regards solely the heart, and reserves an impartial distribution of its favours to another and a happier state.



MR. ROBERT KER PORTER.

AT a period when the estimation of talents is daily rising, when even the loftiest of our nobility, both male and female, are emulously cultivating the laurel as their proudest emblem of distinction, it is no unpleasing task to contemplate the progress of genius, whatever path it may pursue, even from its earliest dawn to the maturity of perfection. If this country has not been more highly distinguished than others, in the art of painting, it is to be lamented that patronage has been less liberal than nature; for there can be no plausible reason why a RAFFAELLE or a MICHAEL ANGELO should not be born in Britain, where

where the attributes of a sister art have so gloriously displayed themselves round the brows of a MILTON and a SHAKESPEARE !

Those living painters who at present claim the meed of reputation, are either veterans in the art, having attained their utmost altitude of capability ; or who, by long and unsuccessful labours, have only been able to secure to their productions the certainty of oblivion. It is therefore a duty which the nation owes to its own fame, to cultivate the blossoms of genius, wherever they are found ; and, by divesting envy of its stings, and prejudice of its power, to ripen in the sunshine of public patronage those fruits, which will be honourable to the present age, and gratifying to posterity.

Mr. Robert Ker Porter is the son of an officer of dragoons, who died some years since, leaving an amiable widow with five lovely and promising children : the youngest of the sons is the subject of these memoirs. He was born at Durham ; and had just entered his twenty-second year, when, in the short period of ten weeks, he completed the celebrated picture of the Storming of Seringapatam ; a work which, for spirit of conception, correctness of arrangement, and harmony of colouring, has rarely been equalled. The size of the picture is such as to contain nearly seven hundred figures as large as life ; while the variety of groups dispersed over the busy scenery, renders it at once an interesting and an astonishing performance.

Mr. Robert Ker Porter, when a child, inherited

from his father a strong propensity to arms. He had, from his earliest infancy, intuitively cherished a passion for military pursuits, and the ardour of his mind traced on the canvas those exploits which he considered as the most glowing in the catalogue of mortal scenery. The embattled field; the smoke of war; the energies of the human mind, delineated in the human countenance, were the objects of his favourite study: at the early age of six years his sketches were remarkable for their spirit, and he was an artist even before he had acquired the first rudiments of his education.

In the year 1790, under the auspices of Mr. West, then R. A. now P. R. A. Mr. Porter was introduced as a student to the Royal Academy. There he continued to draw with unwearied attention; and so rapid was his progress in the art he cultivated, that at the expiration of two years he was employed to paint the figures of Moses and Aaron for the communion-table of Shoreditch church.

Still indefatigable in the pursuit of fame, he continued his labours until the year 1794, when he completed, and presented to the Roman Catholic chapel at Portsea, an altar-piece, representing Christ appeasing the storm. Mr. Porter was yet a child when these specimens of his genius were conceived and executed.

The progressive improvement which attended his labours, could not wholly alienate his mind from that attachment to martial scenes, which had been early rooted, and which grew more ardent as he advanced
towards

towards manhood. He was yet undecided between his love of arms and his professional studies ; and it was only at the earnest and repeated solicitations of his family, that he relinquished his desire for a military life, for the more quiet path of fame which his genius presented. From this period he has divided his hours between his attachment to domestic society, and the labours of his profession, in both of which he appears eminently conspicuous. In the endearing assiduities of an amiable mother, and two lovely, accomplished sisters, who have presented the world with many proofs of their taste for literature, Mr. Porter considers his encreasing reputation only desirable, in proportion as it augments his family felicity, and gratifies the feelings of those who justly appreciate the value of his acquirements.

Mr. Porter has painted several striking likenesses ; but scope and grandeur of design are the leading features of his compositions. In the year 1798, he painted a large altar-piece on the subject of St. John preaching in the Wilderness ; which was presented through the hands of the Reverend Joseph Thomas,* of Epsom in Surry, to St. John's college, Cambridge. Mr. Porter has not confined his studies entirely to painting ; he has also a correct taste for letters, which he has improved, by a classical education.

As Mr. Porter's celebrated picture of the Storming

* This gentleman is not only an admirer of the arts, but has produced some very beautiful drawings on various subjects. He is married to the learned and accomplished daughter of the late reverend and learned Mr. Parkhurst.

of Seringapatam will probably be sent to embellish the eastern world, few private mansions being sufficiently capacious to contain it, and the spirit of public patronage too severely palsied by the calamities of the times to present a purchaser; the following particulars may convey to the imagination a feeble outline of its variety and grandeur, while it gratifies the feelings of those whose relatives adorn the canvas.

The most striking group meets the eye in the centre of the picture. It consists of General Baird, attended by his *aids-de-camp*, animating and encouraging the troops, who are storming the battery; while Serjeant Graham, who has already mounted the rampart, and planted the British colours on its summit, is shot dead by an Indian, at the moment when he is giving the signal of victory. At the top of the first acclivity, Major Cragie, with the grenadiers of the 12th regiment, is directing the attack; while another party, of the 74th, under Major Skelly, are preparing to mount the battery on the left, aided by the Madras native pioneers, with scaling ladders. Captain Cormicke, a brave officer, is seen falling headlong down the steep, being killed near the upper part of the rampart. Half way up the breach is a sally of Tippoo's guards, who are repulsed by the 74th regiment. Lieutenant Prendergast appears mortally wounded by a musket shot; and Lieutenant Shaw lies among the slain in the thickest groups of the battle. In the fore-ground, to the left of the bastion, lies Captain Owen, of the 77th. He rests upon a cannon, and is supported by an artillery-man, who points towards the Indian from whom he received his death-wound. This group is said to be the first which Mr. Porter completed on the canvas. The Indian is seen crouching at the feet of the dying officer, a bayonet having passed through his left breast is visible first below his shoulder. The fore-ground at the foot of the rampart is occupied by a party of Tippoo's tiger grenadiers. They are seen stealing forwards from a covered way, but are encountered by a group of the 73d regiment, led by Captain Macleod; who, being wounded

wounded in the lungs, is conducted off the ground by a soldier of the Meuron regiment. A fierce rencounter at the same moment takes place between a serjeant of the Highlanders and the leader of the Tiger-men of Tippoo's army. The right bastion covers the 73d light companies, and the Scotch brigade are led to the breach by Lieutenant Gawler and Captain Moile, while the remainder of the 73d Highlanders are boldly advancing across a branch of the Cavalry.

On the right of the fore-ground is the gallant Colonel Dunlop, wounded and borne off between two grenadiers; and in front of the mortar battery is Major Allen, with Colonel Dallas and Major Beatson. Several dead and dying are seen at the foot of the breach, and on the margin of the river; while the chief engineer, Colonel Ghent, is giving orders for the removal of a wounded artilleryman; and Captain Caldwell with a glass, is reconnoitring the enemy's works from the battery, where Major Agnew appears communicating intelligence. The distant view to the right presents the British camp, with General Harris, and other officers, on horseback.

On the bastion to the right of the breach Colonel Sierbrooke is seen directing the assault along the ramparts, where the 12th and 33d regiments are bayonetting the enemy, and pushing forward to gain the inner works.

To the left on the rampart stands TIPPOO SULTAUN, attended by his chiefs and standard bearers. He is exposed near the top of the gateway, beneath which he afterwards perished. Near the Sultaun stands a French officer, General Chapuy; and near the gateway (which has been accidentally let down by the destruction of the chains) is a terrific phalanx of the Sultaun's guards, known by the appellation of Hyder's grenadiers. Lieutenant Lalor in the agonies of death is falling from the bridge into the river, at the same time grasping the belt of an Indian soldier, who is seen in the act of raising his sabre to sever his arm from his body.

In the fore-ground a party of the Madras artillery, under Lieutenant Bell, advance, with heavy guns, to force the sally-port, while he is directing the men, with the artillery Lascars, to drag them to the rear.

In

In the left extremity of the picture, Captain Lardy of the regiment De Meuron, is binding his wounded arm, in order that he may rejoin the storming party; and behind the group of artillery are the native troops, with a party of the Nizam's forces, headed by Lieutenant Colonel Mignan, while Lieutenant Pasley, as Major of Brigade, is animating them on to the attack.

Above the walls of the fortress are seen the magnificent buildings of Seringapatam. The mosque of white marble, with towers that seem to penetrate the sky, is on the right of the breach; and on the left the superb palace of Tippoo Sultan, with the gardens of the Lall Baugh, contrast the clouds of sulphur, and the mingling horrors of the more prominent scenery. Imagination cannot present a *coup d'œil* more grand or more variegated than may be contemplated in this extensive picture, which being the first of the kind, we believe, that ever has been attempted, will open a field for the progress of fame, and present a model for the artist of future times to admire and emulate; and it will prove a gratifying promise to the perspective of military prowess, that the names and persons of the most distinguished of Valour's sons, will live to after ages in the glowing colours of the canvas, as well as in the annals of their country.

MR. JOHN THELWALL.

JOHN THELWALL is descended from a family of that name, formerly of Crosby, in Lancashire, where they were possessed of some landed property.

His grandfather, Walter Thelwall, was a Roman Catholic by persuasion, and a surgeon by profession. He served in the Royal Navy; and, after some adventures, which involved eventually the loss of his real estate, settled in Northampton, where he died intestate, leaving an only son, of the name of Joseph, then only two years old, and a young widow, who, by a second marriage and other acts of imprudence, suffered

suffered the personal property (which appears to have been somewhat considerable) to be alienated in as irregular a way as the real had formerly been.*

Joseph was educated in Yorkshire by his paternal grand-mother, and was afterwards a silk-mercier in London; in the first instance in partnership with his uncles, the Hinchliffs, of Henrietta-street, mercers to his Majesty's wardrobe, and afterwards in King-street, Covent-Garden, where he died in his 42d year; while the person who is the subject of these memoirs was ten years of age.

Of this Joseph, John is the youngest of three surviving children. He was born in Chandos-street, in the parish of St. Paul, Covent-Garden, and baptized and educated in the religion of the church of England, which both his parents professed.

His father had a house at Lambeth, where the family mostly resided till within a year or two of his death. At an academy in that neighbourhood he received the first rudiments of his education. He was afterwards some years under the care of the late Mr. Dick, of Hart-street, Covent-Garden, of whose ferocious and brutal severity he always speaks with vehement indignation. He was afterwards removed to another day-school in St. Martin's-lane, and from thence to a boarding school at Highgate; where, to use his own expression, "he lost his time in some-

* The landed estate might probably have been recovered during the minority of the son, but for the selfish apathy of certain relations, who alone had the power and opportunity to have exerted themselves in the affair.

"thing worse than indolence," till he had nearly completed his fourteenth year. [See his *Peripatetic*; in which he describes at large many of his juvenile adventures and propensities.] From this censure, however, he excepts about three months of the time he spent in that seminary; during which time a young clergyman of the name of Harvey was usher there, his intellectual obligations to whom seemed to have left a very singular impression on his mind, as he never mentions him but with an enthusiasm of gratitude and friendship.

This young man indeed had left the school some time before Thelwall was taken from it; but he seems to have sown in the mind of his pupil, at least the seeds of literary ambition. These seeds, however, withered after the departure of Harvey; though they revived again, in spite of the unfavourable circumstances and the incapacity of the tutors which surrounded him, before he was taken from the school; and he began to enter with so much ardour upon the business of self-instruction, that nothing but a continuation of the leisure for improvement, and a few properly selected books, seem to have been necessary to have enabled him to make considerable progress.

These opportunities were, however, refused him. He was called home to different scenes and different pursuits, and he did not quit the studies he was beginning so much to relish without some remonstrance, and many tears.

With respect to the pursuits of life, his first and very early attachment was to the arts; and his father,

ther, who formed great expectations of him from the activity of his mind, had fed his ambition with the hope of making him an historical painter. But his father's death blasted these liberal views, and the persons to whom the care of the son was entrusted were not actuated by enlarged and generous sentiments. Sorely against his own inclination, and in violent opposition to every indication of his mind, he was placed behind the shop counter, where he continued till he was turned of sixteen.

During this time he occupied his leisure, and, in fact, much of that time which ought to have been devoted to business, in the perusal of such books as the neighbouring circulating library could furnish. In novels, indeed, he took very little delight: plays, poetry, and history, were his favourites; and moral philosophy, metaphysics, and even divinity, were not entirely neglected. That he might lose no opportunity of pursuing these various compositions, it was his constant practice to read as he went along the streets, upon whatever business he might be employed: a practice which, originating in a sort of necessity, settled into habit, and was not entirely laid aside till his political exertions brought him into notoriety, and produced several remonstrances from his friends on its singularity and apparent affectation.

But a distaste for business was not the only cause of his discontent. He had the misfortune to live in a state of perpetual discord with an unhappy brother; whose vehement and tyrannical temper was aggravated

aggravated by a disease (the epilepsy) notorious for its ravages on the intellectual system, and by the progress of which his faculties have at last become entirely deranged.

The ardent and independent spirit whose memoirs we are writing, found the yoke of this tyranny, and the stripes and violence with which it was enforced, utterly insupportable. Circumstances also arose out of some other parts of the conduct of the elder brother, which made him equally desirous of a separation. John accordingly turned his attention again to his favourite art, and a painter of some eminence was applied to : but the mistaken economy of his mother made the premium and expences an insurmountable bar. He then made a fruitless effort to get upon the stage : but his written application to the late Mr. Colman was answered only by a moral expostulation against the design, and a declaration that he had no room in his company for a new adventurer.

His present situation, however, being absolutely insupportable, he yielded to the proposal of being apprenticed to an eminent master taylor, at the west end of the town.

This was one of those projects of narrow and miscalculating policy by which the dictates of nature are so frequently violated, and the prospects and happiness of youth so inhumanly blighted, for the sake of enabling two brothers to play into each other's hands, as it is called, and promote each other's interests. It ended as such projects usually do.

Young

Young Thelwall had now changed his residence, indeed, and his nominal profession ; but his pursuits were still the same. The shop-board, like the shop counter, was a seat, not of business but of study. Plays (particularly tragedies) were perpetually in his hands and in his mouth. From thence he soared to epic poetry ; devoured with insatiable avidity Pope's translation of Homer, and committed several hundred verses to memory, meditating the Herculean labour of getting the whole Iliad by heart. His opportunities of study were, however, so inadequate to his wishes, that he even carried a wax taper in his pocket, that he might read as he went along the streets by night.

During the year and a half that he continued in this station, he altered one of the plays of Shakespeare ; planned an epic poem, part of which he actually composed ; and made considerable progress in compiling a History of England ; for which (still remembering his attachment to the arts) he made several rude drawings, as embellishments for the respective incidents.

The ill state of his health (being subject to frequent attacks of asthma and inflammations of the lungs), which obliged him to spend much of his time at his mother's country house, was favourable to these pursuits ; and such was the hatred he bore to his business, that he considered the return of health as a calamity, because it restored him to the shop-board.

At length, weary of his sordid confinement, and
irritated

irritated by one of those mortifying insults to which a lad of his turn of mind could not but be subject in such a situation, he arose one evening suddenly from his work, ran to his master, and telling him in plain terms that he could not endure to stay any longer at such a trade, begged that he would permit him to go home. The master consented, and Thelwall departed accordingly; but not to his mother's house. He foresaw what would be the consequence of such a step; and to avoid those tears and entreaties, on the part of his mother, which he knew he was incompetent to resist, he concealed himself at the house of an acquaintance till he had procured, by letter, a solemn engagement that she would not attempt to persuade him to return to the situation he had left.

He now made a third effort in behalf of his favourite art; and waited personally upon several painters of eminence, with specimens of his drawings, in hopes of recommending himself to some situation under them. Among the rest he called upon Mr. Benjamin West, who received him with a very polite attention, and recommended him, as the most eligible mode of study, not to put himself under any particular artist (who would of course require a very considerable premium), but to enter himself at the Royal Academy, procure medallions and casts from the antique, to copy from, observe the manner and execution of different artists, and exercise his own judgment in what might appear worthy of imitation in them all.

Thelwall

Thelwall would have been very happy to have followed this advice ; but unfortunately it was not in his power. The affairs of his family were rapidly on the decline. The extravagance and misconduct of his brother had consumed the whole property, which, at one time, was not inconsiderable, and plunged them into embarrassment and ruin.

The father died without a will ; but in the presence of those friends who attended his death-bed, he directed Mrs. Thelwall to dispose of the stock and business all together ; to place the property he left behind him in the public funds, make use of the interest for the support of herself and such assistance as might be requisite for the bringing up and establishment of the children during her life-time ; and divide the principal equally between the daughter and two sons at her death.

Unfortunately no part of this direction was attended to. The business was thought too lucrative to be given up. The manufacturers being consulted, advised the widow to continue it ; and she did so, till that mismanagement which had been foreseen by the deceased, ran through every thing ; and yet these very manufacturers, when the consequences partly of their own cupidity had taken place, seized upon every thing by a deed of assignment, and left the object of these memoirs, who had never been consulted as to the hazarding of his proportion of the property, and was much too young to have been a party in the transaction, absolutely destitute, without

any attention whatever to his equitable claim on the property his father left him.

In this hopeless situation, a gentleman at the Chancery bar, who had married his sister, persuaded him to turn his attention to the law, in which it was thought his talents could not fail of procuring his advancement ; and his ambition was roused and excited, as is usual in these cases, by narratives of the wonderful things which have been done in a profession where men have advanced from scratching parchment in an attorney's office, to dispensing laws upon the bench, or framing them in the senate.

His brother-in-law took him accordingly into his house ; and by his means he was articled to Mr. John Impey, a respectable attorney of Inner-Temple-lane ; under promise, however, of being shortly after entered at one of the Inns of Court, to prepare his way for the more eligible walks of the profession.

At this profession he continued three years and a half, studying the poets and the philosophers more than cases and reports ; and writing elegies and legendary tales more frequently than declarations on the case.

This he always considered as the most miserable stage of his existence. His distaste for the drudgery of the profession was heightened by his abhorrence of its principles and practices ; though under a man of so fair and honourable a character as Impey, he must certainly have seen them in the most favourable point of view.

His

His unhappiness was at this time also still farther embittered by an attack that was made upon his innocence by a person with whom Mr. Impey had entered into partnership; and who, in consequence of the unreserved indignation with which Thelwall exposed his infamy, put a period to his existence with a razor.

This circumstance completed the disgust of this eccentric young man. He lingered, indeed, at the profession for a few months longer; chained down by the anxious entreaties of a mother and a sister, but at last quitted the office in the same abrupt way that he had left the shop-board, and the articles between him and Mr. Impey were cancelled by mutual agreement.

Thelwall was now in his twenty-second year, launching into the world as a literary adventurer, without a profession, without fortune, almost without friends, and, what was worse than all, without the advantages of a regular education, or so much as one literary acquaintance. He had an aged mother leaning upon him for support; and shortly after, that very brother also whose misconduct had been the ruin of the family, and who by the progress of his disease was rendered incapable of supporting himself.

Through all these disadvantages, however, he struggled with enthusiastic perseverance. He published two volumes of poems by subscription, became a constant speaker at the public debating societies, wrote occasionally for magazines, became an editor

of one of those miscellanies, and sometimes instructed a pupil or two at their own houses, in some of the ordinary branches of education.

It appears by his own cross-examinations of witnesses upon his trial, that for some years these various exertions did not bring him in an income of much more than fifty pounds a year, with which he supported himself, with the incumbrances already mentioned, in a small but comfortable house and garden near Walcot-place, Lambeth; and he continued even in these contracted circumstances to enlarge his sphere of eligible connections. It appears also from the testimony of some of these (as respectable as ever appeared in a Court of Justice on such an occasion), that, in the midst of these necessities, his moral character was never tainted even by the suspicion of a dishonourable action.

As he became better known his circumstances gradually improved. His facility and versatility of composition recommended him to the notice of some persons who had frequent opportunities of enabling him to turn his talents to advantage; and he was beginning to maintain his family in comfort, when, hurried away by the mania produced by the French revolution, he plunged into the vortex of political contention, the fruitful source of anxieties and misfortunes.

Mr. Thelwall's public career commenced at the debating society at Coachmakers' Hall; a seminary where Dallas, Garrow, and several others who have since figured at the bar, may be said to have taken their first oratorical degrees.

Thelwall when he first came forward in this assembly was no more than nineteen. From the circumstances in which we have seen him placed till that period of his life, it is not likely that he should have attained any very settled principles or accurately defined ideas on the subject of politics. With respect to the questions, however, which then agitated the public mind (namely, the India Bill and the dissolution of the Coalition Administration), he was a zealous ministerialist, as he was afterwards upon that of the Regency, and several others, which successively occurred, till the introduction of the Tobacco Act, and other bills for the extension of the Excise Laws.

The discussions on the subject of the Slave Trade, into which he entered with an almost distracted enthusiasm, led the way to very considerable changes in his political sentiments, as they did also in those of many others; and in the new field of enquiry which was opened by the events of the French revolution, he proceeded step by step to those sentiments his active exertions in diffusing which are matters of public notoriety. For an account of these sentiments we must refer the reader to the various publications in which they are contained. It is not our business to scrutinize the opinions, but to record the lives of those who have made themselves conspicuous in their day. It is sufficient, in justice to him, to observe, that in all his speeches and all his publications, he has uniformly expressed himself an enemy to bloodshed and violence, from whatever quarter it might proceed; and there are many who well re-

member the ardour with which he repeatedly reprobated the execution of the unfortunate Louis the Sixteenth.

When the debating society in Cornhill was shut up, Thelwall made a fruitless effort to procure another place for the purpose of renewing the interrupted discussions, and even posted a sort of proclamation, offering twenty guineas for the use of any room within the jurisdiction of the city of London, for a single night, that the right of magisterial interference with the freedom of popular discussion might be fairly tried.

No such room, however, could be procured; and when one was obtained in the Borough, no person but himself had the hardihood to take a public part amidst the throng of police officers, who neglected no exertion to throw the assembly into the utmost disorder. Thelwall, at once chairman and speaker, preserved, however, his own calmness and presence of mind unmoved, and thereby prevented any actual riot, for the two hours during which time the debate should regularly have continued; but when he was about to conclude and dismiss the company, the aforementioned disturbers knocked out the candles, and overthrew the table upon which the chair and desk were placed; and serious consequences might have ensued, if the company had not almost unanimously interfered, a part of whom surrounding the police officers kept them in a state of durance in a corner of the room, while another party conducted the debater to his own house.

This

This circumstance produced the political lectures. As Thelwall could find no persons, who, under the existing circumstances, would engage to carry on any debate, he resolved to revive political discussion in a form that might depend entirely upon his own individual exertions. The progress and termination of these lectures are well known. From an obscure little newspaper room in Compton-street, that would scarcely hold sixty auditors; from an audience in the first instance of only thirteen persons, they spread themselves to the premises in Beaufort-buildings, where seven hundred and fifty persons have sometimes been present, and more than twice that number turned away from the door.

In the mean time he became successively an active member of the Friends of the People, in the Borough, and the London Corresponding Society: the dispersion of the former of which he strenuously endeavoured to prevent, and even continued the meetings at his own house when only three or four members continued to attend. The part he took in the latter has been made sufficiently public by the trials in November and December 1794; and his subsequent lectures, the acts by which they were suppressed in the middle of the second season; his further efforts to revive discussion under the title of *Lectures on Classical History*, and the successive interruptions and disturbances at Yarmouth, Lynn Wisbeach, Derby, Stockbridge, and Norwich, are too recent to require particular notice; unless indeed we

were to enter into a detail, which, though important to those who wish candidly and accurately to appreciate the character of the individual we are speaking of, would lead us much beyond our necessary limits. At four of these places he narrowly escaped assassination, and at the first, perhaps, the still more terrible fate of being carried to Kamtschatka by the sailors, the armed associators, and the Inniskilling dragoons, by whom he was successively attacked.

While he was in Derby, he was applied to by the principal proprietors of the Courier, to undertake the management of that paper; a proposal which he readily accepted. But, nothing could surpass the acrimony of hostility with which that paper was assailed from various quarters, as soon as this connection transpired. In short, the proprietors were obliged to retract from their agreement; and Thelwall quitted the office, after continuing only a fortnight in that situation.

Such was the conclusion of Mr. Thelwall's political career; a career in which he consumed seven of the best years of life, considerably shattered his constitution by his exertions both of body and mind, and by no means benefited his pecuniary circumstances; a statement which may be readily believed when it is known, that his political lectures in Beaufort-buildings lasted altogether only for seven months; and that, besides those heavy deductions, which those only who are acquainted with the expence of advertising in five or six newspapers, know how to appreciate,

ciate, he had a rent of 132l. a year, together with all taxes, to pay for those premises during the space of almost three years.*

These premises, indeed, had been taken for a variety of political purposes, by certain gentlemen (some of them of considerable property and station in life, and one of whom made a *conspicuous* figure in the House of Commons on a subject intimately connected with this transaction), who set their names to a subscription towards discharging the rent. It so happened, however, that for the space of time above mentioned, the weight of the incumbrance fell upon Mr. Thelwall, who, though not bound to any such responsibility, or any part of it, preferred all the consequent inconveniences to the alternative of suffering it to fall upon the friend, who, in confidence of this subscription, had taken the premises upon lease. In the hands of that friend Mr. Thelwall, at the conclusion of his lectures, left all that remained of the receipts, to indemnify him as far as they went, and left himself and his family in circumstances of pressing necessity and embarrassment.

This statement, which can be supported by unquestionable documents, is thus set forth at large, because we know that a report of a very different nature has been propagated by persons who ought to have taken the pains to be properly informed before they sported with the private character of an indivi-

* The classical lectures in London never paid the expences.

dual, whatever may have been his public sentiments or conduct.*

On the conclusion of the transaction with the Courier, Mr. Thelwall, though unchanged in his opinions, renounced all connection with every thing relating to public affairs; and turned his attention towards making, if not a comfortable establishment, at least a quiet retreat for his encreasing family. The assistance of a few friends enabled him to stock a little farm of about five-and-thirty acres in the obscure but romantic and beautiful little village of Llynwen, distinguished in history as the ancient residence of the princes of Powis, and appointed by Roderick the Great, in his fatal parliamentary testament, as the scene of amicable arbitrament between the princes of North and South Wales.

This farm, as will be evident to persons at all familiar with agricultural affairs, was much too small for the support of a family; and Mr. Thelwall ac-

* Mr. Belsham having, in his *Memoirs of the Reign of Geo. III.* used some expressions respecting Mr. Thelwall, which he justly deemed prejudicial to his character, he publicly called on that gentleman, through the medium of the *Monthly Magazine* for April 1802, to explain the offensive expressions. In the following number but one of that miscellany, Mr. Belsham replied in a very candid manner to the charge; he observes, "that however incautious may have been the expressions to which Mr. T. alludes, I do assure him and the public, that I meant no reflection on his *moral* character, respecting which I, at the time, knew little or nothing, but which I have since heard very favourably spoken of; and it would give me great concern that he should receive any serious injury from what I have said of him in his political character."

cordingly

ordingly made some efforts to add to its produce by literary exertions totally unconnected with the disputes and politics of the day.

Under circumstances of peculiar distress he wrote a novel, in four volumes, entitled the Daughter of Adoption, which was given to the public as the production of a Dr. Beaufort. This work, which is very superior in literary merit to most novels of the present day, Mr. Thelwall has since publicly acknowledged. Soon after the completion of his novel, he quitted agriculture, and once more returned to the Forum.—Of politics and political men, however, Mr. Thelwall was heartily tired, and his “Lectures on Eloquence,” which he now began to deliver in public, were confined to illustrative extracts from some of the most moral and classical authors in the department of polite literature.

In 1800, Mr. Thelwall published a volume of Poetry, including two dramatic pieces. Several of the pieces in this volume are highly poetical, and all of them display a very feeling heart.

Since that period nothing has appeared from his pen; the greater portion of his time being devoted to the preparation and delivery of his lectures, with which he has entertained and instructed many of the provincial audiences; and which it is his intention to deliver in all the principal towns of Great Britain.

MR.

MR. JEFFERSON,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

MR. JEFFERSON was born in Virginia, and is now supposed to be somewhat turned of fifty. He is the son of a gentleman of that state, the same who was joint-commissioner with Colonel Fry for settling and extending the boundary line between Virginia and North Carolina in 1749.

He was educated in his native land, from which he was never absent till its service demanded his residence at the Court of Paris, whither he was sent as an envoy.

Mr. Jefferson is tall, and of slender make, fresh complexion, clear penetrating eyes, hair inclining to red, and of very modest and affable deportment. He was, professionally, bred a lawyer, though born to an affluent fortune; yet the public demand for the exercise of his talents in a higher sphere left him but little time to display his native eloquence as a barrister, nor was he of a turn to profit by the arts of ordinary practice. His country called him forward at a very early period; and promised herself, in his abilities, those very important ends which have been so conspicuously realized in whatsoever he has been engaged.

In private life, in his younger days (the only days which fortune seems to have allotted to him for an uninterrupted social intercourse with the world), he was, in every circle (and all of the first were competitors

petitors for his presence), its ornament, instructor, and pride. Close application had supplied the want of many European advantages. Without neglecting the particular study to which his primary employments were devoted, Mr. Jefferson found also sufficient hours to attend to the politer acquirements. In these auxiliary accomplishments, he attained a knowledge in drawing, geometry, geography, astronomy, natural philosophy, and music, in which he was considered a proficient; nor was his information in history and state affairs neglected for these adornments.

At an early age he married a mild and amiable wife, the daughter of a Mr. Wayles, an eminent counsellor in Virginia: an affectionate partner, who, unfortunately, no longer exists! The death of this lady of course devolved on him a more weighty parental care, in the education of her two lovely daughters; they have been reared under his immediate inspection, and have accompanied his diplomatic functions whithersoever they have been directed.

It could not be expected that a man of such qualifications, in a country which stood so much in need of them, could be suffered long to remain in philosophic retirement: man is not born for himself alone, and the vote of his constituents claimed his labours in the fields of jurisprudence.

In the legislature of Virginia he became a distinguished and useful member, and has left many traces on record of sufficient importance to indicate future greatness.

During

During the revolutionary period which separated the United States from the mother country, we find him advancing to a still more dignified station : he was one of those in whose hands the people thought fit to confide the most material events of their political existence and future happiness. He was honoured with the public confidence during its most important struggles, and sat two years in the famous Congress which brought about the revolution, and which is now every where highly respected. In this Congress he sustained a character which will stand dignified to the end of time ; a character which can never better, perhaps, be expressed, than it already is by the pencil of Trumbul.

A greater example of unlimited confidence than was evidenced in the address of his constituents on the awful occasion of this delegation, will, probably, never be recorded in history. " You assert that there " is a fixed intention to invade our rights and privileges ; we own that we do not see this clearly, but " since you assure us that it is so, we believe the fact. " We are about to take a very dangerous step, but " we confide in you, and are ready to support you in " every measure you shall think proper to adopt." To proceed farther in this paragraph, with feeble accounts of a man who should only be mentioned to be revered, would be to offer insult to the superior pens which have preceded, and merit a stigma for arrogance : the Duke de Liancourt,* to the charac-

* Travels in North America, vol. ii. p. 69, &c. quarto edit.

ter of an agriculturist (which both he and the Board of Agriculture of England have bestowed on Mr. Jefferson), has added the following very beautiful and faithful picture :

“ They must be very ignorant of the history of America who know not that Mr. Jefferson shared with George Washington, Franklin, John Adams, Mr. Jay, and a few others, the toils and dangers of the revolution in all its different stages ; that in the famous Congress which guided and consolidated it, he displayed a boldness and firmness of character, a fund of talents and knowledge, and a steadiness of principles, which will hand down his name to posterity with glory, and assure to him for ever the respect and gratitude of all the friends of liberty. It was he who, in the famous Congress, so respectable and so much respected, in that Congress, ever inaccessible to the seduction, fear, and apparent weakness of the people—who jointly with Mr. Lee, another deputy of Virginia, proposed the declaration of independence. It was he who, supported principally by John Adams, pressed the deliberation on the subject, and carried it, bearing down the wary prudence of some of his colleagues, possessed of an equal share of patriotism, but of less courage. It was he who was charged with drawing up this master-piece of dignified wisdom and patriotic pride. It was he who, being afterwards appointed Governor of Virginia, at the period, of the invasion of Arnold and Cornwallis, acquired a peculiar claim on the gratitude of his fellow-citizens. It was he who, as the first Ambassador of the United States in France, filled, at that momentous epocha, that distinguished post to the satisfaction of both nations. In fine, it was he who, as Secretary of State in 1792, when the ridiculous and disorganizing pretensions of Mr. Genet, and the lofty arrogance of the ***** Minister, endeavoured alternately to abuse the political weakness of the United States, induced his Government to speak a noble and independant language, which would have done credit to the most formidable power. The long correspondence carried on with these two designing agents would, from its just, profound, and able reasoning, be alone sufficient to confer on its author the reputation of an accomplished Statesman.”

Here

Here we must recur to a critical period in Mr. Jefferson's civil administration. He was the second Governor of Virginia, under its renovated constitution, the successor of that Patrick Henry who was the successor of Lord Dunmore, and who boldly held the reins of a yet untried system.

At this arduous period he had much to contend with ; for he was not only the object of an open enemy in the field, but sustained the insidious artifice of an assassin-like faction, who assailed his reputation in the dark, ever ready to stab it with a secret whisper. Justice to this gentleman demands a notice of some of the more overt attacks which were made on him, and which, though vague and loose in themselves, have been frequently recited by men ready enough to do him evil : it has been objected that he abandoned the government of Virginia to its enemies, and sought personal safety in his flight to the mountains ; and that he refused to pay military claims in preference to those of the civil list, during his administration of that government.

If the first of these loose insinuations is supposed to apply to the evacuation of the Virginia metropolis, an American officer now present was with him on the occasion, and contradicts the fact : if to the second visit which General Tarleton did himself the honour of paying to the deliberating councils of that country, the whole legislature must have been equally implicated : *Dum armes silent leges !* The propriety of his pecuniary appropriations are, perhaps, easily to be justified.

With

With regard to the first, facts authorize the bold assertion, that the Government deserted Mr. Jefferson, not that Mr. Jefferson deserted the Government, on this occasion of unparalleled risk and difficulty. The gentleman present, and now ready to testify, was at that period an officer in the confidence of the commanding General in that part of the country, and was, on this particular occasion, sent to Mr. Jefferson with dispatches of an important nature (being choicely mounted, by the General's particular order, on the most noted running horse which the whole country afforded). He found Mr. Jefferson in the town of Manchester, opposite to *Richmond*, which is the *metropolis* spoken of, and then about fourteen miles from the rear of General Arnold, who was retiring from his depredatory incursion. He learnt from the few confidential friends who surrounded the Governor, that his Excellency had been busily engaged even in personal labour to secure those very arms in a place of safety which were abandoned by his citizens to the mercy of the enemy; while some, indeed, were as industriously employed in circulating falsehoods to his prejudice.

In the respect of his pecuniary appropriations, before alluded to, gentlemen of the army seem to have been a little premature in imbibing a prejudice against a public character, whose office demanded of him an independent exercise of his judgment. This might in part, perhaps, proceed from the imperfect knowledge to which military life in general attains, in the affairs of civil government, and partly from those

false suggestions which are wont to arise from the malice of faction. It is true that a part of the army were discontented with Mr. Jefferson, and it is equally so that their jealousy of pecuniary partialities was the chief cause; but it remains to be determined whether this was a reasonable dissatisfaction. It was a prevalent complaint that the civil list were paid, while the claims of the military were unattended to. In canvassing this murmur, let us take a view of the premises.—Every one knows the situation of Virginia at that time; her credit was sunk, her strength exhausted by the marching and counter-marching of her troops, invaded by a powerful enemy, and her contingent fund at a very low ebb: certainly the propriety of supporting her *civil* government through such disasters will be viewed as a primary object by all sound politicians. Without *that* supreme head, the very cause which called for a defence would have been annihilated, and the dissatisfied military would have been disorganized, and no longer necessary. With regard to the component individuals who were included in the civil list, it was necessary to support them; for to do this was essential to the existence of jurisprudence, and indispensably necessary for the support of good order in the community. The people of the metropolis (Richmond) were neither willing nor able to take the whole burthen of government upon their own shoulders; nor were they, on any account, bound to submit to it: yet the departments of administration must necessarily reside there, and the inhabitants must as necessarily be paid for accommodating

accommodating men who, having sacrificed the conveniences of life to the duties of public service, were unavoidably dependent on the national fund. Had the treasury of the state been adequate to the whole demand, it is presumed no man would have felt greater pleasure than Mr. Jefferson in the accommodation of all their wants; for benevolence is a trait in his constitution which has more than once placed his private credulity in the hands of the swindler. It is moreover to be considered, that the civil list contained but a small number of individuals; the military roll comprized a very large one. Of two evils it was certainly proper to choose the least: besides, the military had one resource which was beyond the immediate power of the civil authority;—their arms and the laws of war empowered and justified them in taking needful supplies (otherwise than in waste) from those to whom Providence had been most bountiful; for such had been made the common lot of the war, the whole property of the people being voluntarily pledged for its defence, at the period of its commencement. Some of the military, however, had a different sense of these matters, and preferred to quarter upon the chief magistrate those whom rank and military pride should have better instructed in the rules of decorum and common civility.

As early as the year 1774, Mr. Jefferson had appeared in print, and it was about this distracted period of revolutionary commotion that, amidst his numerous official functions, he was called upon by a fo-

reigner of distinction (*said to be thus required by the King of France*), to furnish those notes on the state of Virginia which have been since that time published to the world, and have added somewhat to his literary reputation. It is to be regretted that these notes contain, perhaps, an inadvertent reflection on the character of an officer, which has been the subject of animadversion in the American prints, and has been severely reprehended by the son-in-law of the offended party:* mention is made of this unlucky circumstance, because it would be partial to hide it, and yet it seems equally proper to cast a shade over its remembrance, because it does not seem natural to the general texture of his mind to do any man a wilful injury. The picture drawn by Mr. Jefferson is certainly a high-coloured one; and, taking all things together, it seems to present him as the dupe of misinformation, unless we admit the charitable supposition, that the extatic moments of Indian exordium may be allowed to elevate a man above the *homo sapiens Americanus*, and above ordinary responsibility. I wish for his sake, and for his country's, that no farther mischief may ensue from the issue which has been taken in this point; and, as it must be highly honourable to Mr. Jefferson to retract in a case of error, I am persuaded, that the happiest termination on both sides will be found in eclairoissement and obliteration.

To return to particulars of Mr. Jefferson's official

* See his character of Colonel Cresap—Jefferson's Notes, page 104.

life, and to contemplate insinuations to his prejudice as thrown out to the world by those partisans of evil who alone have cause to dread his administration, it is more safe to rely on facts than aspersions. In 1774, he was the author of "A Summary View of the Rights of British America;" will any man venture to assert that he did not comprehend those rights? Then why should he become the *partisan of France*, to infringe the very rights which he had defined, and so long supported?

In 1780-1, he was Governor of Virginia. All the objections to his administration which have yet been heard of are herein before fairly stated, and controverted on the personal knowledge of the writer. Is there a single insinuation that will bear reflection, although he governed under every possible impediment of invasion and insurrection?

In 1781, he wrote his Notes on Virginia. These were not intended for the press; yet they have found their way into print. Can any man say that he has cause to be ashamed of the principles he has avowed there? Let his book be read, it will bear witness for the man.

But there is one of his avowed acts in the appendix which opens his whole political soul, in the very moment of success (call it even impunity), the termination of the war in 1783; and that is, his draught of a fundamental constitution. In the summer of 1783, it was expected that the people of Virginia would call a convention together for the purpose of establishing and reviving the essential spirit of their

rights, by the formation of a radical law, or, in other words, *constitution*. Mr. Jefferson (who doubtless would have been an active member of that body) had prepared himself at leisure, and deliberately digested the form of a constitution, such as he conceived calculated to secure the rights and liberty of his country, in the most permanent manner, and with the least possible restraint on individual inclinations,*

He opens the plan of this constitution with a declaration to the world of the nature of the war, and of other pre-existing circumstances which had rendered the proposed measure necessary. He proposes that a convention should be invited by the voluntary resolution of the legislature; and, of course, deduces the dependence and submission of the law giving power to its origin, *the People*. From this constitutional convention of the community, he delegates the departments of jurisprudence to a legislative, judicial, and executive authority; and he balances the whole very nicely in equilibrio. He divides the legislature into two houses, and renders their concurrence an essential of their laws. He proposes that their election should be annual. He adjusts the equality of election by proportioning the county representatives to the number of the electors, and by limiting the number of delegates of which that house shall consist. His senatorial division consists of districts and classes. He establishes the method of vot-

* See Jefferson's Notes, Appendix, page 356.

ing *viva voce*, and gives the right of suffrage to all who are enrolled in the militia. He regulates and confines the time and manner of legislative meeting and adjournment; and, giving to the Governor a power of convening them, admits a latitude in the case of infection or invasion, which may render a temporary removal expedient. A majority of either house forms its quorum. He allows the members no *privilege* whatever beyond personal protection while they are engaged on public business; and (what may seem extraordinary in England) he makes the market price of *wheat* the medium of their wages, thereby (I apprehend) stimulating an attention to agriculture, while he dispenses the medium of equity. Ultimately, he pays a due and scrupulous attention to the doctrines of *exclusion, vacancies, and limits of power*.

To the Executive Governor, the Council of State, and its President, Mr. Jefferson has paid equal attention, as well as to the judiciary department. He has also proposed a *council of revision*, to consist of members from the two several departments of the executive and judicial; to this council he proposes the submission of all bills (which shall have passed the legislature) before they become ultimately a law; and, from the rules laid down in this case, it seems next to impossible that the legislative wisdom of the country should be surprised into the act of *a party*.

He has been equally attentive to the preservation of the state sovereignty and the consistency of the confederacy. In the appointment of delegates to

Congress, he has left the election in the hands of the state legislature, but has been careful to exclude the members of the executive power from either voice or seat.

He has particularly guarded the writ of *habeas corpus* as the right of every man, and that ten days shall be the longest possible stretch of imprisonment after such writ is demanded.

He has taken due care to subject the military authority to the civil power. Printing presses are only responsible for the propagation of falsehood; and constitutional conventions may be called whenever they are thought to be needful by two out of the three branches of government.

Such is the magna charta devised by this great and honest statesman: How people in England should conceive a man dangerous, and as a partial friend to France, who is so willing to tie his own hands from doing mischief, is wonderful. But the wisdom and justice of his public character will appear in a light yet more true, perhaps, if we examine how far he may have practised the principles he has prescribed, during his civil administration in the capacities of Delegate in Congress, Foreign Ambassador, and Secretary of State.

In the year 1782-3, he was in Congress, from whence he was appointed as Ambassador to the Court of Spain, but the approach of peace, it is presumed, rendered his voyage unnecessary. In 1784, he was still in or at Congress, at Annapolis, in Maryland. In March 1786, Mr. Jefferson was in England.

Shortly

Shortly after this period we find him at the Court of Versailles, from whence he communicated his negotiations concerning the freedom of the tobacco trade, the powerful opposition of the farmers-general, &c. to Mr. Jay, Minister of Foreign Affairs at New York, in a letter dated May 27th, 1786. In this letter he evinces considerable diplomatic talents, and success, having gained the approbation of Mr. de Vergennes, and the acquiescence of Mr. de Calonne. He has also recommended to the people of Carolina an improvement in preparing their staple commodity, *rice*, in order to lead the Mediterranean market.

His attention to the fine arts in the midst of his diplomatic functions is not only a very striking proof of the universality of Mr. Jefferson's genius, but strongly evinces his application to those important points which militate to the improvement of his native country, and contribute to promote the happiness of man.

A mind thus elevated above the ordinary employments of its species is little susceptible of the dirty influence of party policy; it is only for the groveling disposition which is incapable of leaving the beaten track of evil habit, that such a limited spirit is truly appropriate. In a very concise letter to Dr. Stiles, President of Yale college, dated Paris, September 1st, 1786, this gentleman displays a fund of sentiment and information sufficient to entitle him to the confidence of his country, and the admiration of society; he has, indeed, suggested a new idea, *that the people of Asia*

Asia are descended from the American Indians ; but he has strongly supported this conjecture with at least well chosen facts.

When we find a man, in his recess from public duty, capable of exploring the wilds of nature, the connections of the human species, and the ancient intercourse of long lost nations with each other ; when we find him attentive to painting, to literature and the fine arts, to the purity of metals, to the improvement of optics, of transposition by fac-simile, and of science in general, we must allow him a degree above the tools of faction, admit him to a higher seat of dignity than the mere modeller of a national treaty about tobacco and rice, and allow him fitting qualifications for the presidential chair of a new country which stands in need of expansive talents.

On the 22d of October 1786, Mr. de Calonne announced to Mr. Jefferson, by letter from Fontainebleau, the intention of the King of France to favour the commerce of the United States as much as possible ; to double the number of their free ports ; to reduce the duties which were prejudicial to the commerce with America ; that after the expiration of a contract made by the farmers-general with Mr. Morris (concerning tobacco) no similar one should be permitted ; and that, during the existence of the term of Mr. M.'s contract, the farmers-general should be compelled to purchase annually about fifteen thousand hogsheads of American tobacco : this regulation of the tobacco trade (though not wholly in conformity to the principles proposed by Mr. Jefferson

ferson in his letter to the Count de Vergennes) appears to have been the result of Mr. Jefferson's negotiation, which had it at first in view to eradicate that monopoly entirely.

In the arguments used by Mr. Jefferson on this occasion, in respect to abolishing the duties of France upon the oil trade, he appears to have carried equal conviction; for although France could not consent to a total abolition, she puts the United States on a footing with the Hanse Towns, and Mr. de Calonne assigns her pre-existing treaties with other powers as a reason for her doing no more: his most Christian Majesty, moreover, thought fit to abolish the duties of fabrication upon this article,

On this occasion he also obtained an encouragement of the Carolina rice-trade; and, an abolition of duties upon the articles of pot-ash, pearl-ash; beaver-skins, hair and raw leather, masts, yards, knees for ship-building, red cedar, green oak and timber of all kinds; ships built in the United States; shrubs, trees, and seeds from the States, and books and paper exported thither. There was also granted, on this negotiation, certain facilities on the exportation of the wines of Bourdeaux, Guyenne, and Touraine, and on the exportation of arms and military stores to the States.

At this period the consumption of *Carolina*-rice in France appears to have been about one-half of their total demand, as stated in a letter from Mr. Jefferson to Dr. Ramsay of South Carolina, dated 27th October 1786, at Paris. As much of this consumption, however,

however, was connected with *fasting and praying*, the Carolina *rice-trade* affords an argument in favour of the *mitre*, as well as that of the *cod-fishery*; and there does not appear to be any spice of democracy in Mr. Jefferson, which should render him at this day a partisan against the interests of his native territory, or the Pope.

We do not find any material public measure to be noticed concerning the present worthy object of our consideration, between the years 1786, to 1789. Mr. Jefferson formed, it seems, during that period, several interesting literary acquaintances in France, to an intercourse with whom he chiefly devoted that leisure with which he was saddled by the growing discords of the country.

In 1789, Mr. Jefferson returned from France; and the pacific revolution, or rather *reformation*, of that period having taken place by unanimous consent and approbation of the several sovereign States, Mr. Jefferson was appointed Secretary of State to the Federal government.

In this eminent capacity, he was called on to perform many arduous duties of office; and the difficulty of performing these in a safe and satisfactory manner, was greatly enhanced by the consideration of pursuing an unbeaten path in the organization of a new-born system. In whatsoever he undertook, however, he succeeded to the public satisfaction, and displayed unequalled talent and application.

On the 15th January 1790, the House of Representatives referred to him, as Secretary of State, to report

report on the plan or plans which might be most proper for reducing the currency, weights and measures of the United States to an uniform standard. In considering this question, he gave ample proofs of his mathematical abilities: but, what adds to the perfection of this report * is, the conciseness of method, the spirit of natural philosophy, the assiduity of research, the discriminating precision, and the profundity of judgment with which it is every way replete.

On the 1st February 1791, Mr. Jefferson reported, in his official capacity, the state of the Cod and Whale Fisheries, which had, in like manner, been referred to him by the House of Representatives.

It could scarcely be supposed that this was a favourite topic with a man who had been bred in the mountains, a native of Virginia, where no such fisheries exist; or, that he could be any more at home to the fisherman's habits and personal interests, than a farmer would be at sea on board a first-rate ship of war. Mr. Jefferson, however, had "placed his mind" with his house on an elevated site, from whence he "might contemplate the universe;"† and we find him equally attentive to the more remote interests of his country, as to those of his immediate neighbourhood: one might conceive him, indeed, from this document, to have been a regular-bred Boston merchant, who had accumulated a fortune in the traffic of spermaceti: but we must admit him to be a

* Report on Weights, Measures and Coins, 14th April 1790.

† Chastelleux's remark on this gentleman.

merchant of superior information to the plodder of pounds, shillings, and pence, and recommend his report to the perusal of that intermediating class who would facilitate the great interests of commerce, without preying upon the public faith or the vitals of trade. In this report Mr. Jefferson recurs back to the earliest periods, and takes a copious view of the subject without prolixity : as an historian, he conveys abundant information ; as a politician, he dives to the bottom of causes and effects ; as a calculator, he shews himself skilled in arithmetic ; as an American, he recounts the advantages and inconveniences which relate to his country ; and, as a statesman, he develops the detail of every political disease with an ability that is only equalled by the excellence of his remedy, which is very far above the latitude of a groveling party policy.

We come now to one of the most important periods in the history of commerce ; the period at which the ambassador of the King of England became a resident at the Court of America,* and the citizen minister of the French Republic† assailed the firmness of her neutral principles. In this probationary state of her political existence, the burden of the day fell on the shoulders of Mr. Jefferson : we need not say with what ability he sustained the shock ; on this head the Duke de Liancourt has left us nothing to communicate. Over the unpleasant occurrences of that trying period the two govern-

* Mr. Hammond.

† Genet.

ments have wisely drawn a veil, and it shall not be our work to rend or to remove it.

Suffice it to say that, with both nations, the correspondence was voluminous and intricate; it is apprehended to be, nevertheless, impartial on the side of Mr. Jefferson, and is somewhat important on the side of truth, against that insidious intrigue which dares impute to him an unworthy attachment.

In his letter, of the 15th May 1793, addressed to the predecessor of Mr. Genet (Mr. Ternant), he defines the law of nations with perspicuity, and determines on an impartial observance of it: nay more, he abandons the citizens of America to the consequences of infraction, if, on either side, they depart from neutrality.

On a complaint from a British subject, stated in this same letter, that the Consul of France residing at Charleston, in South Carolina, had condemned, there, a British vessel captured by a French frigate, Mr. Jefferson remonstrates in the following words: "We have not full evidence that the case has happened; but on such an hypothesis, while we should be disposed to view it in this instance, as an error in judgment in the particular officer, we should rely, Sir, that you would interpose efficaciously to prevent a repetition of the error by him, or any other of the Consuls of your nation."

On another complaint of the same nature, which states that privateers had been fitted out from American ports, and manned, in part, by American seamen, to cruize against the ships of Great Britain.

Mr.

Mr. Jefferson makes the following observation to the minister of France : " Without taking all these facts
" for granted, we have not hesitated to express our
" highest disapprobation of the conduct of any of
" our citizens, who may personally engage in com-
" mitting hostilities at sea, against any of the nations
" parties to the present war ; to declare that, if the
" case has happened, or that should it happen, we
" will exert all the means with which the laws and
" constitution have armed us, to discover such of-
" fenders, and to bring them to condign punish-
" ment."

Thus it is to be discovered (in the direct secretarial act of Mr. Jefferson, wherein, in the infancy of this contest, the head of this department has been less guided by a formal submission to the President, than by the rectitude of a heart, and the wisdom of a head, in which the supreme chief of the Union had an abundant confidence), that there is nothing in Mr. Jefferson's principles which should attach him to the factions of France, or any act which may be deemed incompatible with the duties of neutrality. If we were to follow him through the subsequent labyrinth of diplomatic intrigue, wherein the then existing rulers of France had employed their chosen corps in arming American citizens, in disorganizing the government of the United States, and in endeavours to involve her in the war, we shall find him equally vigilant and impartial : where then, may we ask, is the evidence of Gallic partiality which Englishmen have ascribed to him ? or what are his dreaded principles ?

ciples? The failure of affirmative evidence, as well as a too voluminous proof of innocence, bid us desist from a farther disprobate!

As we now approach the period of Mr. Jefferson's retirement, for a short interval, to his domestic concerns, and afterwards to the less active, though highly dignified office of Vice President, we shall only add one more notice of his official acts in the employment of Secretary of State. He was called on by a resolution of the House of Representatives, dated February the 23d, 1791, to report on the privileges and restrictions of commercial intercourse; but the weighty concerns of organization, the ordinary calls of his official duties, and the cabals of foreign ministers, had occupied so much of his time, that he had not leisure to make this report till the 16th December 1793; and even then found it proper to confine it to the summer of 1792 (where he had been called off from it by extraneous concerns), that he might be thereby enabled to speak with greater certainty to a settled point of time.

Doubtless, a review of such an extensive commerce as that of America, must have been a work of immense labour; and one which demanded the intervention of commercial knowledge in the voluminous details with which it is connected. The difficulty, however, is not merely the extent of these: the various items could be accommodated by the help of clerks and transcribers; but it required the abilities of a Jefferson to compress the view, and combine a picture of the whole, which might be

1800-1801.

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comprehended

comprehended by the ordinary capacity of a popular representation.

In this Mr. Jefferson seems to have succeeded with his accustomed felicity ; for he has comprehended a summary of the whole in the space of twenty octavo pages ; and yet, he has given the most satisfactory statements of the trade with Great Britain, with France, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, Sweden, and the United Netherlands, comprehending their respective privileges and restrictions, with a very able summary of inconveniences and remedies.

Shortly after this, one of his last secretarial transactions, Mr. Jefferson retired to his seat at Monticello, in Virginia. In addition to the ties of parental care and the claims of domestic happiness, Mr. Jefferson is said to have been somewhat induced to this derelictory measure, by the persuasion of a decided party overbalancing his opinions in the presidential decisions. "Immediately after this step," says the Duke de Liancourt,

"Mr. Jefferson was considered by the ruling party as the leader of opposition ; he was suspected of revolutionary views ; he was accused of an intention to overturn the Constitution of the United States, of being the enemy of his country, and of a wish to become a tribune of the people. It is sufficient to know that Mr. Jefferson is a man of sense, to feel the absurdity of these scandalous imputations, and, whoever is acquainted with his virtue, must be astonished at their having been preferred against him. His speeches are those of a man firmly attached to the maintenance of the Union, of the present Constitution, and of the independence of the United States. He is the declared enemy of every new system, the introduction of which might be attempted, but
he

he is a greater enemy of a kingly form * of Government than of any other. He is clearly of opinion, that the present Constitution should be carefully preserved and defended against all infringements arising from the stretch of executive power. It was framed and accepted on republican principles, and it is his wish that it should remain a republican constitution.

"On several occasions," says the Duke, "I have heard him speak with great respect of the virtues of the President,† and in terms of esteem of his sound and unerring judgment.

"But," continues the Duke, "the spirit of party is carried to excess in America; men who embrace the opinion of Mr. Jefferson, attack their opponents with imputations, no doubt, equally unfounded. In all party-proceedings, neither reason nor justice can be expected from either side, and very seldom strict morality, with respect to the means employed to serve the favourite cause: one cause alone appears good; every thing besides is deemed bad, nay criminal, and probity itself serves to mislead probity. Personal resentments assume the colour of public spirit, and frequently, when the most odious acts of injustice have been committed, and the most atrocious calumnies spread; but few members of the party are in the secret, and know that they are the effusions of injustice and false representation. The truth of these observations being evident to all men who have lived amidst parties, should lead to mutual toleration and forbearance.

"In private life Mr. Jefferson displays a mild, easy, and obliging temper, though he is somewhat cold and reserved. His conversation is of the most agreeable kind, and he possesses a stock of information not inferior to that of any other man. In Europe he would hold a distinguished rank among men of letters, and as such he has already appeared there; at present‡ he is employed with activity and perseverance in the management of his farms and buildings; and he orders, directs, and pursues in the minutest detail, every branch of business relating to them. The author of this sketch found him in the midst of harvest, from which the scorching heat of the sun does not prevent his attendance. His

* *Applied to the United States; he meddles not with kingdoms elsewhere, and pays due respect to those in authority.*

† The late General Washington. ‡ June 1795.

negroes are nourished, clothed, and treated as well as white servants could be. As he cannot expect any assistance from the two small neighbouring towns, every article is made on his farm; his negroes are cabinet-makers, carpenters, masons, bricklayers, smiths, &c. The children he employs in a nail-manufactory, which yields already a considerable profit. The young and old negroes spin for the clothing of the rest. He animates them by rewards and distinctions; in fine, his superior mind directs the management of his domestic concerns, with the same abilities, activity, and regularity, which he evinced in the conduct of public affairs, and which he is calculated to display in every situation of life."

In the beginning of the year 1801, Mr. Jefferson was elected president of the United States after a very severe contest, in which every effort was strained by the party who opposed him to procure the re-election of Mr. Adams.

In addition to the other great merits of Mr. Jefferson, it must be recorded to his honour that he has successfully introduced vaccine inoculation among the Indians. He has also taught the wandering tribes to cultivate the soil, rather than to range the woods for a precarious subsistence; he has domesticated them by the introduction of spinning-wheels, and various other implements of domestic and agricultural utility; and has, moreover, prepared them to receive the humanizing and beneficent principles of Christianity. His countrymen have done themselves honour by striking a medal to commemorate the services he has rendered them. Of this medal we shall here give a description. On the obverse is the head of the president: inscription, "*Th. Jefferson, president of the U. S., 4 March 1801.*"—Reverse, Minerva, the right hand supporting the cap of liberty, the left holding a

book ; on a leaf is inscribed "*Declari independence,*" with trophies ; under which is "*Constitution.*" Over the book is a dove, with an olive branch. Exurge, " To commemorate July 4, 1776."

Such are the character and life of this great and good member of society ; and it would be highly criminal to wish him separated from the bosom of his amiable family, to any other end than those important services to his fellow-creatures, for the performance whereof nature has bestowed on him such an exalted capacity.

MR. BUSHROD WASHINGTON:

THE agitation of the popular mind of America, and the circumstances which have contributed to call this young gentleman forward so immediately after the decease of his late venerable uncle the General (of whom much has been already said, but of whom more yet remains than language can express), has induced us to transmit some information which the public will doubtless expect concerning a candidate for the exalted station of Vice President of the United States of America.

Mr. Bushrod Washington is now about thirty-five years of age, of small stature, and comely or rather handsome person, having much of that placid yet manly firmness in his countenance for which his uncle was so truly remarkable. My informant had an early and suitable opportunity of noticing and pointing out to others, present, several traits of

future greatness which were discovered in this young man's deportment, before he was publicly known to be a *Washington*. His remarkable attention to the long and interesting cause of *Vaudruil against Randal** is one instance here alluded to; that remarkable trial which so greatly excited the public curiosity in Philadelphia in the year 1783.

We are particular in citing this early instance of juvenile assiduity, in as much as it applies to the basis of a character which is self-existent; which has already been mistakenly tacked to family interest, and the intrigue of faction, in periodical prints; and which is very delicately placed on a more conspicuous ground of responsibility and difficulty in comparison with the exalted personage whom he was born to represent

It is certainly saying a great deal for the man we are about to introduce, when we recite, from General Washington's will, that *unlimited confidence* which devised the family seat of *Mount Vernon*,† with the private and public papers of the inestimable testator:‡

* For breach of marriage, &c.

† Many people suppose General Washington to have been educated in England, but we are positively assured that he never was out of America, or the American seas. The family seat, *Mount Vernon*, in Fairfax county, Virginia, was (as we understand) named thus by an elder brother of the General's, who served in the expedition carried into the Gulph of Mexico by Admiral Vernon, and in honour to that officer. We are not certain whether the General (then young) was on that service with his brother.

‡ "Item, To my nephew, Bushrod Washington, I give and bequeath all the papers in my possession, which relate to my civil and military administration of the affairs of this country: I leave
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but Mr. Washington has stronger claims than this to public patronage; he is one of those valuable citizens whom society esteems for their own sakes. Nature gave him a head and heart which stood in no need of party influence; and in America, or in any other country, where men dare to be free, and to spurn the artifice of corruption, he would be *called upon* to perform the duties of some important function.

In 1783, he studied the law in Philadelphia; and, at the remarkable trial which we have just mentioned, he was one of the few of his age who were capable of a four days fixed attention to a case (which produced laughter in others) without an unbecoming smile from Master Washington; a case, indeed, which excited many an indecorous titter from men of riper years, who should have given a more exemplary proof of their prudence. The absence of my informant, for several years afterwards, denied to him an opportunity of detailing this gentleman's farther progress; but on his return, he found him distinguished by the highest practice at the bar of the courts of justice in Virginia; where, even, the present able Secretary of State, among others, will cheerfully surrender the palm of defence to his abilities.

This testimony of his uncle's will * is an incontrovertible evidence of his claims upon the estate at

to him also such of my private papers as are worth preserving; and, at the decease of my wife, and before, if she is not inclined to retain them, I give and bequeath my library of books and pamphlets of every kind."

* " And now, having gone through these specific devises, with explanations for the more correct understanding of the meaning

Mount Vernon, without derogating from the wisdom or justice of the donor. We do not, however, find him taking any advantage of this claim, or courting the interest of a popular character, who, with every thing in his power, might have done any thing with honour. The self-denial of General Washington had shut his hand against family promotion, preferring only those who promised service to his country in its posts of trust and profit, without submitting to the temptations of relative respect. Independent of these we find Mr. Washington succeeding on the strength of native talents; and even this among strangers. He removed at an early period to the city of Richmond,* where he settled, and where the comforts of competency, with an amiable and exemplary wife, rendered him happy and beloved.

His truly domestic and benevolent partner for life is the daughter of a Mr. Blackburne, a gentleman of respectability, and of one of the principal families on the river Potowmack. In this instance of social con-

and design of them, I proceed to the distribution of the more important parts of my estate, in manner following: First, to my nephew, Bushrod Washington, and his heirs, (partly in consideration of an intimation to his deceased father, while we were bachelors, and he had kindly undertaken to superintend my estate during my military services, in the former war between Great Britain and France, that if I should fall therein, Mount Vernon, then less extensive in domain than at present, should become his property), I give and bequeath," &c.

* Richmond is 110 miles from Mount Vernon, and 263 miles from Philadelphia, where General Washington necessarily resided most,

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nection he seems to have shared in the good fortune of his uncle. Mrs. Washington possesses a considerable portion of the social virtues of her sex, and these are said to shine most in the private circle of her family and her friends, or among such as are in need of those cheering attentions which her fortune and economy have enabled her to dispense.

With respect to the military talents of Mr. Washington, it seems probable that the happy period which put an end to the American war prevented an honourable display of them without leaving him a cause for regret. His mind is said to be far above the vain glory of offending for the sake of fame, and incapable of building up a reputation with the blood of his fellow creatures. At the siege of York, however, he very amply anticipated his uncle's desire in the use of his sword.* Born to an ample fortune, nursed in the lap of indulgence, and of a delicate corporeal frame, he cheerfully submitted to the duties of a private soldier, on an active and hazardous service in the very teeth of the enemy; he was one of a corps of young gentlemen, who went voluntarily into ser-

* "To each of my nephews, William Augustine Washington, George Lewis, George Steptoe Washington, Bushrod Washington, and Samuel Washington, I give one of the swords or cut-throats, of which I may die possessed; and they are to choose in the order they are named. These swords are accompanied with an injunction not to unsheath them for the purpose of shedding blood, except it be for self-defence, or in defence of their country and its rights; and in the latter case, to keep them unsheathed, and prefer falling with them in their hands to the relinquishment thereof."

vice, under the command of Colonel Mercer (formerly aid-de-camp to General Lee), and was, on this occasion, ranked among the bravest, the most active, and vigilant of these patriotic volunteers.

From such a character, so happily connected and situated, every thing great and patriotic is to be expected; and that, if he should be called to fill an important station in the administration of jurisprudence, his abilities, firmness, impartiality, and moderation will be eminently conspicuous.

DR. JOHN GILLIES.

DR. GILLIES was born at Brechin, in the shire of Angus, in Scotland, about the middle of the eighteenth century. His relations are among the most respectable inhabitants in that neighbourhood. Brechin was long the capital of a bishopric, one of the most ancient in Britain.

He received the rudiments of education at the next parish school; and, after making a due proficiency in the initiatory parts of learning, he was sent to pursue his higher studies at the university of Glasgow.

That university was then in great reputation. Hutcheson, by his eloquence as a lecturer, by the purity and elegance of his writings, by the benignant spirit of his philosophy, had some time before rendered it famous as the best school for ethical science. But the great fame of Hutcheson was now eclipsed
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by the superior talents of Smith. Simpson was then teaching mathematical science, with a skill worthy of the ablest proficient among all the moderns, in the mathematics of the ancients. Millar was beginning to form, and to teach in lectures, those institutes of the philosophy of jurisprudence, which are still *confessedly* unequalled by the jurists and academical lecturers of the other universities of Europe. Moor, whose profound erudition and singular discernment first explained, on a tolerably satisfactory system, the nature, relations, and import of the most difficult class of the indeclinable words of the Greek language, was at this time professor of that language, and knew how to kindle in his pupils a passion for the essential beauties of Grecian literature. Robert and Andrew Foulis were producing, with the types of Wilson, those editions, equally beautiful and correct, of the Greek and Latin classics, which are generally known and admired. Theology was taught by Leechman in lectures, which breathed a more liberal and benevolent spirit than that of Calvin.

Such were the masters under whom Mr. Gillies studied. Among his fellow students were several young men, who, in the progress of life, have since become eminent. He quickly distinguished himself by a rapid advancement in the knowledge of Grecian literature, ethica science, and the beauties of classical English composition. Moor, his master, was much more conversant with the classics of Grecian than with those of English literature. But Mr. Gillies was fortunately directed to study the writings of the best
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modern authors, in comparison with those of the ancients: and by this means he was enabled to discern, with true taste and intelligence, the genuine and respective excellencies of each. The orators and the poets of ancient Greece engaged his fondest attention; while his favourite authors among the moderns were the philosophical historians and essayists of France and Britain. Even while a very young man at college, he strongly felt the excitements of literary ambition. His college exercises obtained the praise of taste and genius. Some of his juvenile essays stole occasionally into print; in particular, an admirable *Defense of the Study of Classical Literature*, the ingenuity and elegance of which were thought to do extraordinary credit to the young author. This essay was inserted in the Edinburgh Magazine.

From the university he was recommended to the appointment of tutor to the Honourable Mr. Hope, one of the younger sons of the late Earl of Hopeton. The conditions on which he accepted this engagement were liberal and honourable. With his noble pupil he went to the continent. They passed some years in Germany; and visited most of those places in the middle and the south of Europe, which are the most highly celebrated as worthy of attracting the curiosity of travellers. Mr. Gillies's conduct was very acceptable to his pupil and to the Earl his father, and every thing conspired to render his situation, in all respects, improving and agreeable to himself.

To him, indeed, after the progress he had made in liberal and elegant study, such an engagement could
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not but be exceedingly advantageous, as a mean for the farther cultivation of his faculties. Those simple ideas, or notions, which are the elements of our knowledge, cannot be learned from books, but are to be acquired only from *consciousness* of our own native feelings, and from real *observation* of the actions of other beings, and of the forms and changes of exterior nature in general. The simple ideas or notions with which the mind is thus supplied, are more or less numerous and various, in proportion as a man passes through more or fewer of those situations which excite diversity of internal feelings, and in proportion as he has opportunity to examine a greater or a smaller number of the appearances of nature, and of the acts expressive of human thought and passion. Books, and study by mere reading, may help to fix the sentiments and imagery of nature more permanently in the mind, may teach us to compare them more skilfully, may lead us to perceive among them new relations, may instruct us to combine them in new systems, but can give nothing more. He who should spend his life in a library, would, at its end, have less of real knowledge than the farmer or the merchant, who, with an equality of natural abilities, had been continually engaged, with real and active experience, in the grosser affairs of the world. Even Magliabecchi or Wanley had not half the knowledge of Cook. If Mr. Gillies had never travelled, nor been introduced into the great world, he might have become sufficiently expert in construing Lycophron, in scanning the hexameters of Homer, in distinguish-

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ing the familiar ribaldry of Aristophanes from the stately and high sounding phrases of the Greek tragedians ; but he could not have acquired that knowledge of the philosophy and the affairs of social life, which is necessary to the successful composition of history ; nor could he have become qualified to renovate the fame of Aristotle, by unlocking his stores of scientific truth to modern intelligence. He had attained to that maturity of intellect, and acquired that previous knowledge of books and of things in his own country, without which the advantages of travel could not be duly applied to improvement : and few Scotchmen have ever gone abroad, who knew so well how to make the most of the opportunities for enriching the mind, which their travels afforded.

His application to his classical and philosophical studies was not remitted during his residence on the continent. He composed, while abroad, a great part of one of his most considerable works. Of the languages of France and Germany, he obtained so thorough a knowledge, and so easy and complete a command, that he still speaks them with nearly the same fluency and propriety, as if either had been his native speech. Listening to the words, and observing the manners and personal aspect of the people of Germany, he perceived them to bear to those of his fellow-countrymen, on the east coast of Scotland, a similarity sufficiently striking, in many minute particulars, to evince that the inhabitants of Angusshire, just as well as those of the eastern counties of England, must be, by their remote ancestors, of German descent.

descent. In Italy, he had great pleasure in visiting the puny, but then independent republic of San Marino. It had been before visited by Addison: but Addison's account of it, in the narrative of his travels, was much less worthy of its republican independence, and of the singularity of its circumstances in general, than that which the late Mr. Seward was, by the favour of Dr. Gillies, enabled to insert in one of his volumes of anecdotes. Dr. Gillies did not chuse, after his return to this country, to give to the public a book of travels. But he has done enough to make us wish that, with the sacrifice of fifty of our common books of travels, we could purchase even one such as his accuracy of observation, sagacity of reflection, and power of elegant writing enabled him to have given.

Such was, in general, the course of study, and converse with life, by which Dr. Gillies cultivated his talents, while he was advancing to distinguish himself in the foremost class of men of science and literature. Let us now view him as an author.

His first avowed publication was, *A Translation of the Orations of Lysias and Isocrates*. Dr. Leland had gained great reputation by his translation of those of Demosthenes. Sir William Jones, in translating the pleadings of Isæus, had lately opened to English readers, a source of much curious information concerning the domestic life of the Athenians, and even the minute forms of proceeding in their courts of justice. Dr. Gillies selected, — in *Lysias*, an orator whose speeches being chiefly of the judicial class,
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were richer in domestic anecdotes, and in the detail of familiar manners, than even the characters of Theophrastus, or the dramas of Aristophanes,—and in *Isocrates*, one whose principal discourses were the best specimens of curious rhetorical labour, and of the practical ethics and politics, for the age in which he lived. Of the pleadings and essays of these writers, he executed a translation eminently faithful, nervous, and stately, yet flowing, easy, and graceful. In preparing it for publication, he subjoined *notes* to illustrate the obscurities of the text, and prefixed to each separate piece an *Introduction*, explaining with conciseness and perspicuity, whatever could be known as to its design and history, either from the discourse itself, or from other authentic sources of original information. For a *common Introduction* to the whole, he composed a Dissertation on the General History of Greece, especially for the age in which his orators lived; which is, perhaps, just such a one as *Isocrates* himself might have written, if with his own knowledge and taste, he had been reserved to breathe the atmosphere of modern philosophy and literature. A work so valuable could not fail of a favourable reception with the British public. It was no sooner generally known by the proper judges of its merits, than the translator was ranked among the ablest classical scholars, and the most eloquent writers of the age. There is scarcely any book that will afford higher entertainment to a reader fond of the detail of familiar manners, and of curious anecdotes of domestic life; or any that will more agreeably aid the student

His next work was his *History of Greece*. From this, he probably expected high returns of emolument and fame; and, if such were his hopes, they have not been disappointed. The suggestions of Bolingbroke, the rival attempts of Voltaire, with the still unequalled examples of the Greek and Roman historians, as well as of those of modern Italy, excited *Hume* to produce the first model of classical and philosophic history, with which English literature was enriched. *Robertson*, with more of epic and dramatic power, with an equal, or even a more expansive comprehension of mind, in a style, if more monotonous and rhetorical, yet more nervous and correct, but with penetration less acute and inventive, and with a taste in composition less delicately chaste and refined,—next tried his talents in history, in friendly competition with *Hume*. *Gibbon*, ambitious to efface by the fame of classical erudition, and of genius and eloquence, the ignominy of an expulsion from the University of Oxford, thought no province of literary exertion so likely to afford success to his wishes, as that in which *Hume* and *Robertson* had so signally excelled. He chose a period of history which philosophical historians and elegant classical scholars had alike neglected, as unworthy to be illustrated, and incapable to become the subject of any

1800-1801. 6 splendid

splendid and interesting work. His first volume^s had already astonished and charmed the world by evincing that this very neglected period was, of the whole history of social life, the part the most pregnant with useful information, the richest in the stores of philosophy, the most abundant in those characters and vicissitudes of fortune, by which curiosity is chiefly interested, the most susceptible, in historical narrative, of those ornaments which genius and eloquence alone know to confer. These were the masters whom Dr. Gillies thought not unworthy of his imitation—the rivals whom, in imitating, he aspired to excel. No modern language possessed a history at once classical and philosophical, of the origin, the progress, the splendours, and the decline of the people of the Grecian name, though so illustrious, as the authors of all the civilization of the western world. In undertaking a History of Greece, therefore, Dr. Gillies consulted public utility no less than the character of his own genius and favourite studies.

Much of this work was written abroad. The first part, deducing the history of the Greeks to the æra of the subversion of Grecian liberty, was published by Cadell in the year 1785. In every quality of legitimate history it was judged not unworthy to be put into competition with the best examples of historical excellence in the English language. Its beauties were observed to be—great fidelity of narrative, the fruit of integrity, judgment, and erudition,—a skilful combination of the parts into one whole,—that force of sentiment, and that picturesquous power
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of displaying imagery, without which no relation of events in which we are personally unconcerned can ever be made interesting to the mind,—a continual selection of the most impressive particulars, such as is never made but by taste and genius,—a rich display of ethical and political wisdom from the stores of antiquity, as well as of that philosophy of history and legislation which peculiarly belongs to modern times,—taste to estimate aright the merits of the Greeks in the sciences and the fine arts,—an eloquence, copious, rich, high-sounding, and splendid, adapted to the dignity of the subjects on which it was employed, breathing not a little of the spirit of Plato and of Homer, and reminding the reader of the lofty sonorous march of the style of Gibbon. This work was very generally read, and with much popular applause. It has passed through several editions, and is still rising in the estimation of the world; notwithstanding the competition of the rival history of Mr. Mitford, a work of great and acknowledged excellence.

Upon the death of Frederick the Great, of Prussia, Dr. Gillies, who had visited his court, produced, in a very agreeable and instructive volume, a *Parallel between his Character as a Politician and Warrior, and that of the famous Philip of Macedon*.

The Doctor had now for some time fixed his residence chiefly in London. He had access to the best society; and on account of his pleasing manners, and his rich, fluent, and various conversation, was every where very acceptable. His fortune, though not opulent, was, by an annuity from the Earl of

Hopeton, by the profits of his History, and by some other supplies, rendered sufficiently equal to his moderate though gentlemanly plan of expence. Nor did he want friends who desired to make it still more easy. On the death of Dr. Robertson of Edinburgh, Dr. Gillies was, with a discernment which did honour to Government, appointed to succeed him in the office of historiographer to the King for Scotland, with a salary of 200l. a year. He soon after married an amiable and accomplished woman, and settled in a pleasant house in the vicinity of Portman-Square.

For some time the works of Aristotle had engaged much of his attention. Like all others who, with vigour and perspicacity of intellect, have studied Aristotle deeply, the more he read the treatises of that philosopher, so much the more did he discover in them of profound, original, incontrovertible science, and of sound good sense. It was an undertaking worthy of his erudition and judgment to renew the popularity and the usefulness of the prince of Grecian philosophers. He entered upon it so much the more earnestly, because he saw in Aristotle's Ethics and Politics a view of the foundations and essential nature of social order and civil government, which would, as he conceived, decisively expose the futility of all the theories of modern revolutionists. The result of this undertaking, consisting of a general analysis of the works of Aristotle, and of translations of his Ethical and Political Treatises, was given to the Public in 1798. Its reception has been very favourable. Aristotle is exhibited in a dress somewhat similar

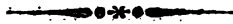
similar to that in which Pope has invested Homer. His principles appear to be wonderfully extensive and just. Nor should we be surprised if, by the favour of such an interpreter, he were to recover almost all his ancient authority over the opinions of mankind. Those who reckoned Dr. Gillies's style somewhat too luxuriant in his former writings, allow that it is, in this work, happily tempered by the austerity of that of Aristotle, so as to be a model of elegance not ornamented beyond the bounds of strict propriety.*

He is understood to be now occupied in the continuation of his History of Greece. In the second part of that work, he will probably pursue the history of the Greeks through their foreign conquests, their colonial settlements, their dispersions, their subjugation to the power of strangers, their intercourse with other nations, the reciprocal influences of their trans-

* It is, however, the opinion of some who are well skilled in the Peripatetic philosophy, that Dr. Gillies in his translation has not in the least preserved the manner of Aristotle; that he frequently mistakes his meaning; and that he has acted indiscreetly in so often uniting entire sentences of his own with the text of his author. The same critics have likewise wished that the Doctor had availed himself of the assistance of Aristotle's Greek interpreters, as many of their commentaries are replete with uncommon erudition, and are inestimably valuable (particularly those of Simplicius) for the numerous and large extracts which they contain from the writings of philosophers prior to, or contemporary with, the Stagirite himself. Hence they are of opinion that the Doctor was neither sufficiently aware of the difficulty, nor well prepared for the execution, of such an undertaking; and that in consequence of this, he has procured for himself a reputation more extended than durable, and more shining than solid.

actions on the rest of the world, and of the rest of the world on them, even downward, almost to the present time. The field is of vast compass and diversity ; and it is probable that, with his powers and experience, he may prepare from it, the most interesting and truly instructive history which the world has yet seen.

Dr. Gillies is a man of a handsome figure, not exceeding the middle size. His countenance is open, ingenuous, and expressive—rather of sagacity and cheerfulness than of any keen activity of passion. His manners are frank without vulgarity, and courteous without affected stateliness ; and his conversation is, in a high degree, rich, various, and pleasing.



LORD HOBART.

FEW men have, at so early a period of life, filled such important public situations as Lord Hobart ; and no man has acquitted himself with more private esteem or public approbation. Entering very young into the army, he served in America with much credit, obtaining a company on the Irish establishment. In the year 1779, he left America, and went to Ireland, being appointed aid-du-camp to his uncle, the Earl of Buckinghamshire, then Lord Lieutenant of that kingdom ; where, by his engaging talents and captivating manners, he interested the people of Ireland so much in his favour, and was so beloved in return, that he grew imperceptibly to consider and to feel it as his own country, in adoption of which idea he

he resided in it many years. In 1789, there occurred some matter of political dissention between the then Lord Lieutenant and the Irish Parliament, originating principally in the discussions respecting the appointment of a Regent. This subject, however, is immaterial to this history, being *matter of dissention*. Lord Hobart was recommended to the Marquis of Buckingham, from the most amiable motive, namely, that of his being thought most capable of effecting the purposes of conciliation. He was accordingly made Secretary, and the consequence justified the choice.

In 1790, Lord Westmoreland succeeded to the government of Ireland, and Lord Hobart was continued. In this appointment his genius began to expand itself, and to rise with his situation; and the most able and eloquent of his opponents in Parliament bore this testimony in his favour, "That he was a man whose talents grew with the necessity of calling them into action."

The great and arduous measure which forced itself upon Lord Westmoreland's administration, was that of reconciling the Protestant Parliament to the Catholic claims, which at time were growing importunate. In Ireland the population is Catholic, the power and property Protestant; and the withholding almost all the rights and privileges of subjects from those who constitute the *great body of the people*, was a policy no longer to be maintained, according to the philosophy of modern jurisprudence, or indeed according to the true principles of justice or wisdom. However, the attempt to correct this evil was attended

with much difficulty, and had to contend with great and powerful opponents. It had to contend not only with passions and prejudices, but important interests; not only with hereditary jealousies, but hereditary power, which had grown out of those very exclusions and disabilities which were to be abolished. But the measure was so just, and the management of it so judicious, that, under the prevailing prudence and ability of Lord Hobart, it succeeded in that degree and to that extent the most consistent with justice and sound policy. It restored to the Catholics every right and capacity necessary to human happiness, without shaking the principles of the revolution, or endangering the protestant establishment of the state.

When we mention Lord Hobart as the great instrument in this transaction, it would be altogether unjust to overlook the superintending wisdom and high character of Lord Westmoreland, the Lord Lieutenant: but the accomplishment of the great and difficult objects of the Lord Lieutenant must, in a considerable degree, depend upon the penetration, the ability, and the address of his Minister, the Secretary; and certainly such penetration, ability, and address were eminently displayed by the Secretary on this occasion.

The next measure of concession, or acquisition (for concession is often acquisition to Government), which distinguished this administration, was the controul upon the power of the Crown by the limitation of pensions; the regulation of the civil list, the
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more closely assimilating the principle and the practice of issuing the public treasure to those of England, and the exclusion of certain officers of the Crown from seats in the House of Commons. These objects were adjusted and accomplished by acts passed in the Irish Parliament. An amicable sentiment between England and Ireland was strongly cultivated in this Administration ; in consequence of which the British Parliament, not only by a liberal construction of the navigation act, but by a repeal of several prohibitory statutes, communicated to Ireland the benefit of the British market to the produce of the British plantations passing through Ireland.

This act of British liberality was emulated by the Irish Parliament, which, without compact or compromise, relinquished, in favour of the East India Company, the Irish right of trade from the Cape of Good Hope to the Streights of Magellan. It fell to the lot of Lord Hobart to introduce both these measures into the Parliaments of Great Britain and Ireland, he being at that time a member of the British House of Commons as well as of the Irish; and when we advert to the discussions upon these subjects, which took place at the time of the Irish propositions, it will appear somewhat extraordinary, that this principle of reciprocal concession should have been established without a dissenting voice in the Parliament of either country.

To the Administration, of which Lord Hobart was the ostensible Minister, we are indebted for the establishment of a national militia,—all the measures
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that had been introduced into Parliament with a view to that object having completely failed in other hands. It had become necessary to suppress the volunteers ; that institution, to which the country has certainly so many obligations, having been manifestly perverted to the worst of purposes : the wisdom of the Government saw the danger which it averted by its spirit ; and the suppression of the volunteers was accompanied by the establishment of a constitutional substitute, *a national militia*.

The British Minister (himself a man of stupendous talents) was not insensible to the abilities of Lord Hobart, and, by his influence, he was selected as a person the best qualified to manage our important possessions in the East. With an understanding capable of rule, with manners formed to conciliate, with a purity that disdained the ancient authorities of plunder, he was appointed to the government of Madras, to which appointment is superadded an eventual and probably an immediate succession to that of Bengal. And certainly a man of his birth and qualities would not have changed his native country, his connections and friends, for remote regions and new climates ; he would not have relinquished his expectations at home, if he had not carried with him a well-grounded hope that he was speedily to be promoted to a government, which would open to him a more expanded sphere, better proportioned to the reach of his mind and the extent of his liberality.

Under these impressions he resumed the government of Madras, in the year 1794. The public had repeated

repeated testimonies of approbation transmitted to him from the Court of Directors, and the several addresses on his departure from India from every description of persons—from the King's and Company's armies, from the civil servants, from the independent merchants and native inhabitants of Madras—furnish an incontestible body of evidence to prove that his administration was benignant to the people, and beneficial to the Company. But some instances occurred in Lord Hobart's government, which discovered such a profound sagacity, such a reach of thought, such prompt exertion, that it would be unfaithful in history to pass them by unnoticed.

His powerful exertions in promoting the capture of the Island of Ceylon and the Spice Islands (so advantageous in trade, and so essentially contributing to the security of our empire in the east) are as well known as they were important, and stand registered in the records of the Company. The armaments for these important expeditions were furnished from his government, and conducted under his auspices. The public testimony was not less strong in his favour upon another occasion of no small importance. An express had arrived at Bombay, communicating the substance of the treaty of Campo Formio between the Emperor and the French Republic. Lord Hobart's sagacity immediately foresaw all the consequences that were likely to follow from this treaty. The French becoming disembarrassed from a powerful enemy, and relieved from the burthen of a continental war, would, he was confident, be at liberty to pursue

pursue distant conquests ; and, from the communications which were then known to be carried on between the French and Tippoo Sultaun, he was apprehensive that their views would be directed towards India.

At this time a powerful armament had been prepared and was ready to sail for the conquest of Manilla : nearly the whole of the naval force and a great proportion of the land forces were to be detached from his government. Lord Hobart was clearly of opinion that the hazard to be encountered could not be justified by any advantage to be derived from the most complete success ; and, under these impressions, his determination was instantly taken to abandon the expedition. The importance of this service was thus stated and admitted at a very numerous and respectable Court of Proprietors held after his return : " That Lord Hobart had discovered upon this " occasion the intelligence of a profound statesman ; " his foresight anticipated the events which have " since occurred ; and this wise act of forbearance " alone might have constituted the salvation of " India."

The exertions made by Lord Hobart to put an end to the pernicious practice of usurious loans, form so prominent a feature of his administration, that it is impossible to pass them entirely unnoticed ; and more especially as the combination of interest, both civil and military, connected with that practice, would have deterred any man from interfering with it, whose principles of public duty were not paramount to every sense of personal consideration.

In recording the merits of an individual, it is so much our wish to avoid the smallest reflection upon another, that we forego even the satisfaction we should feel at dwelling upon the conduct of Lord Hobart with respect to the army under his government, where the effect of firmness and conciliation was rendered peculiarly conspicuous by circumstances which, for the reasons already assigned, we forbear to enter into.

In every instance of pre-eminence and power, factions arise; and if, in consequence of them, differences of opinion should have occurred between Lord Hobart and the supreme Government of Bengal, or the native Princes, it arose from his devotion to the interests he was bound to promote, from his zeal to realize the large balances due to the Company's support from the revenues of the Carnatic, and from his endeavours, upon the death of the late Nabob of Arcot, to place that rich and beautiful country under the protection of the Company.

These circumstances, however, real or fictitious, with all their relations, assisted a cabal which had been formed, and occasioned a disappointment in his well-grounded hopes of a succession to Bengal. The consequence was, that he resigned the government of Madras, and returned to England in the latter end of 1798.

On his return the East India Company bore-testimony to his services by granting him a pension of 2000*l.* a year, at the unanimous recommendation of the Court of Directors; and one of the most re-

spectable courts of Proprietors ever assembled upon any occasion voted their unanimous thanks to his Lordship for his services in India. The Crown rewarded his fidelity by calling him up to the House of Peers; and all descriptions of people in India, the civil and military departments, the free merchants, and the natives of Madras, transmitted to him numerous addresses, expressing, in the strongest terms of genuine feeling, their admiration of the justice, wisdom, and moderation of his government.

Lord Hobart now remains in the enjoyment of these honourable testimonies, to which he can himself superadd the greatest of all human enjoyments, *a sense of conscious integrity.*

His Lordship is the eldest son of the present Earl of Buckinghamshire, who succeeded his elder brother, the late Earl, in 1793.

Lord Hobart's aunt, the Countess of Buckinghamshire, being sister to the Right Honourable Thomas Conolly, one of the most splendid commoners in Ireland, introduced Lord Hobart to the intimate acquaintance of that gentleman, who has a princely demesne about ten miles from Dublin, and whose magnificent hospitality, together with his establishments for, and delights in, the sports of the turf and the chase, was a strong inducement for Lord Hobart to reside there principally, which he did during the administrations of Earl Carlisle, Duke of Portland, and the Earls Temple and Northington.

The convivial disposition of Lord, then Captain Hobart strongly recommended him to the particular
notice

notice and friendship of the late Duke of Rutland, who became Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in February 1784. His Grace appointed the Captain one of his aids-de-camp, in a short time promoted him to the rank of Major in the army, and conferred upon him the office of inspector general of recruiting in that kingdom.

Soon after this, Major Hobart, through the interest of Government, was returned to parliament for the borough of Armagh; and, in the year 1787, he was one among the many who felt the event of the Duke of Rutland's death, while in the Government of Ireland.*

Major Hobart accompanied the Duke's remains to the family vault in Rutlandshire, and immediately returned to Dublin.

The present Marquis of Buckingham was appointed to succeed the Duke of Rutland, and accordingly, for the second time,† he took upon him the government of Ireland, in the month of December 1787.

Major Hobart continued a member of the Irish

* Although some unpopularity attached to the Duke of Rutland in the early part of his Grace's administration, a knowledge of his great worth, magnanimity of soul, private virtues, and cordiality of disposition, soon rendered him the idol of the Irish nation; which they had an unhappy opportunity of testifying in the melancholy circumstances of his Grace's death, where his funeral procession to the water-side, on Saturday the 17th November 1787, exhibited the combined picture of a people's sorrow and a nation's regret.

† The Marquis of Buckingham had been Lord Lieutenant when Earl Temple, in 1782-3.

House of Commons, and also to hold his military employment under the remainder of Lord Buckingham's administration, as well as to be one of that nobleman's aids-de-camp; and, upon the most trying question which occurred during that period, the Regency, Major Hobart stood at his post in support of Lord Buckingham against the appointment of the Prince of Wales, in an unlimited degree, and ranked among the ministerial minority.

Lord Buckingham having quitted Ireland, in disgust, in the summer of 1789, and having, in the mean time, committed the government into the hands of Lords Justices,* a few months glided away most unimportantly.

The first symptoms of open rebellion made their appearance in Dublin while Lord Hobart was Secretary, by the assembling of a gang of United Irishmen, who, in 1793, paraded within a few hundred yards of Dublin Castle, fully armed and accoutred, dressed in a military uniform, calling themselves (in imitation of the French) "the first battalion of national guards." Their buttons were distinguished by an harp *without* a crown; and the motto, *liberty and equality*. This dangerous combination was headed by the celebrated Archibald Hamilton Rowan, but by the vigilance of Lord Hobart and the other members of government it was suppressed.

* The late primate of Ireland (Dr. Robinson), Lord Fitzgibbon, now Earl Clare, and the Right Honourable John Forster, were the Lords Justices then appointed.

His Lordship is said to have secured for himself, while chief Secretary to Lord Westmoreland, the reversion of the office of clerk of the pleas in the Irish exchequer, then held by the late Earl Clonmell, who died during Lord Hobart's residence in India.

The only subject which we have noticed his Lordship delivering his sentiments upon, since he has been called to the House of Peers, was that of the present great question of a legislative union between Great Britain and Ireland; and certainly his Lordship's long residence in, and knowledge of, the sister kingdom, from whence he had been absent only four of the last twenty-two years, afforded him an opportunity of delivering his sentiments upon that head with much local information. His Lordship supported the Ministers by voting for the adoption of their favourite object.

Lord Hobart is now about forty years of age, his person rather above the middle size, remarkably stout, and particularly neat. In private life he is extremely gay, convivial, and cheerful; his manners are most engaging, polite, and affable. As a public speaker, his arguments are urged with much decorum and plain firmness, nothing of shew or fancy in figurative rhetoric, but his manner ever prepossessing you with the idea of a perfect gentleman, while truth and honour seem to be the impulse which governs his diction.

His Lordship's first lady died at Fort St. George in 1798, since which he has married the daughter of Lord Auckland.

MR. BIDLAKE.

IN this gentleman we have a striking instance of that indefatigable spirit, the true characteristic of a superior mind, which pursues its object with unabating ardour, amidst those embarrassments of situation which sink thousands into lethargic imbecility, or hopeless despondence. The progress of genius, like a river confined within a rocky channel, is accelerated by opposition. Thus the daily toil of tuition, and the frequent interruptions of a laborious clerical office, seem to have stimulated the literary exertions of the subject of this memoir. In the course of a few years, divinity, poetry, and education, have alternately exercised his talents in a variety of publications, of which the following, we believe, is an accurate list :

Two volumes of sermons, chiefly on practical subjects, several of which were first printed by request.

A quarto volume of poems on various subjects.

The Country Parson : a poem written in the stanza of Spenser.

The Precepts of Prudentius : a work “ designed by the author to serve as a direction to young persons who are past their puerile days, and are advancing into life.”

The Sea : a poem in blank verse.

In addition to the above, several shorter poems have appeared in periodical publications, among which, “ An Ode to the Snow-drop,” the “ Natural Child,” an elegy, and an “ Ode to the Evening Star,” have been much admired.*

* Mr. Bidlake has written a tragedy, entitled “ Virginia,” which has lately made its appearance before the public. He has also

This gentleman is a native of Plymouth, and was educated at the grammar-school of that place. From thence he removed to Christ-Church, Oxford, where he was honoured with the friendship of the late celebrated Dr. Kennicott, and other characters of eminence. Soon after, taking deacon's orders, he was elected master of the school in which he had passed his pupilage, an office at that time vacant, and where he still continues to train the rising generation to the love of knowledge and virtue; not without the flattering approbation of those who consign their youthful offspring to his care.

The life of a person engaged in the regular routine of education admits of little variety. This, indeed, may be applied to the votaries of literature in general: yet with what eager solicitude are the memoirs of literary characters perused, even though barren of incident! We follow the author through every stage of his existence; the sports of his infancy, the vagrant sallies of youth, and the more deliberate pursuits of manhood, are scrutinized with unceasing avidity. To this curiosity many are, no doubt, very naturally prompted by the pleasure they receive from an author's works, and many perhaps by that personal vanity which claims affinity to great-

also added a poem of considerable length, entitled the *Summer's Eve*, of a moral and descriptive nature, and of which rural scenery forms the principal subject. The writer of this article, in asserting that the author has, in this instance, far surpassed his former poetic effusions, conceives he shall only anticipate the public opinion.

ness, from some trifling coincidence of temper or disposition ; but there are others who, in the contemplation of eminent characters of genius, struggling with adversity, and rising superior to impending difficulties, feel that divine enthusiasm, which elevates, refines, and invigorates every faculty of the soul. Mr. Bidlake has, for some years, served the curacy of Stonehouse-chapel, near Plymouth, and is much revered by a numerous and very respectable auditory ; on whom his eloquence, in illustrating and enforcing the sublime precepts of Christianity, has not been exerted in vain. As a pulpit orator his merit is certainly of the first order. His voice is powerful, yet clear ; and his delivery uncommonly impressive. Earnest in his exhortations, and eminently possessing the powers of persuasion, he never fails to interest the feelings, and engross the attention, of his hearers. No man can entertain a stronger sense of those sacred obligations which peculiarly distinguish the clerical office ; and, more than once, in the exercise of his functions, has the conscious importance of his subject so affected him, as to have rendered him almost incapable of proceeding.

The recollection of talents exerted in promoting the happiness of society, and the pleasing reflection of having faithfully discharged the duties of an important trust, are the only reward which qualities like these have procured their possessor ; for Mr. Bidlake has hitherto had no preferment in the church. He has, however, been appointed chaplain to his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence ; a situation
generally

generally considered introductory to ecclesiastical promotion.

Mr. Bidlake has discharged the obligations of filial duty in a manner which entitles him to much commendation, and affords an exemplary instance of tender affection. It happened that his father, who was a reputable jeweller at Plymouth, failed in his business at an advanced period of life, and was reduced to a state of irretrievable embarrassment. The support of both parents devolved in consequence on the son; and though it may be easily supposed *his* resources were not calculated to sustain such a pressure, he performed this pious task with cheerfulness for several years. Even the produce of a small employment, obtained by the father some time after this event, was generously devoted by the son to the further comfort of his parents. On the father's decease, this supply of course failed. The death of his mother was sudden, and happened while his poem of the Sea was preparing for the press. To this the author pathetically alludes in the following lines :

“ Of all the dangers of the stormy main,
While thus the Muse had sung, and deem'd herself
Secure, and sought to deck her sea-beat grot,
In hope to soothe maternal age, and cheer
The eve of life, came treach'rous Death, and aim'd
A sudden blow; and fix'd an arrow in
This sadd'ning breast, that long will rankle there :
For, with that sudden blow a parent fell.
Scarce had the gloomy tyrant ceas'd to wound,
And scarce had time with lenient hand applied
His balm to woe, when thus a second fell.
O! say, ye truly feeling ! ye, who boast

The fond delights of kind parental love,
And pay the debt of filial gratitude,
And call your duty all your daily joy;
O, say what pangs must rend this aching heart!
Peace to your shades, ye venerable names!
Ye, who with care sustain'd my infant years,
And still pursu'd with fondest wishes all
My paths! Yet one, one joy is mine: more high
Than rich inheritance, that all your cares
Were not forgot—and were, perhaps, repaid."

Though highly susceptible of domestic happiness, Mr. Bidlake has never been married. His amusements are various, and indicate the man of taste. Several pictures in his possession of favourite scenes near Plymouth, evince talents which, if assiduously cultivated, would entitle him to considerable eminence. The colouring and characteristic excellence of these pictures declare the artist to be intimately conversant with the sublime objects of his imitation. Botany, natural and experimental philosophy, and sometimes the varied tones of an excellent organ, on which Mr. Bidlake performs occasionally, relieve the languid intervals of literary abstraction. These elegant pursuits, however, have not rendered him unsocial; and though no one, perhaps, sacrifices less time to what is fashionably termed "the world," yet many of his evenings are spent in the society of a few friends of congenial minds, with whom the topics of the day, or subjects connected with literature and the arts, are discussed; and not unfrequently, biographical anecdotes, illustrative of singular habits and characteristic traits, which Mr. Bidlake relates with

with much humour, furnish subjects of amusement and speculation.

But his chief pleasure arises from that enthusiastic admiration of the wonders of creation, which is the prominent feature of his mind. No one can possess a more ardent love of rural pleasures; many of his leisure hours are therefore devoted to excursions in the country; which, in the neighbourhood of Plymouth, is beautifully diversified and picturesque. These excursions are always performed on foot, and with a few select companions, with whom he may enjoy the freedom of unreserved communication and enquiry, and soften for a while, in the tranquillity of rural scenes, the recollection of those fatal dissensions which the wickedness and folly of mankind are perpetually exciting. Perhaps in that fervour of mental delight, which the beauty and beneficence of Nature inspires, Utopian projects of human emancipation from degradation and error may at times brighten the perspective of existing misery, and rouse

“The latent throb for virtue and for fame.”

The book of nature has been Mr. Bidlake's chief study. Hence those liberal sentiments, those comprehensive views; hence also that happy combination of poetic and picturesque imagery, so conspicuous in his works.

In the perusal of his sermons the bigot and the sectary will be perhaps equally disappointed: but to the sincere lover of God and of mankind, to the man whose understanding has not been bewildered

in the labyrinth of controversy, and whose heart has resisted the poison of those, who, in order to erect their perishable structures, destroy every thing that can dignify or soften humanity; to all, in short, who believe that religion consists in the exercise of piety and virtue, independent of all artificial distinctions, they will prove a source of consolation and improvement. Religion here assumes her most fascinating dress, and her language is in unison with the dictates of reason and nature. His poetry is remarkable for tenderness of sentiment and chaste imagery, and his similes, always appropriate and generally beautiful, have been justly admired. His subjects are mostly of the pensive kind, which, while they soften the heart, render it at the same time more susceptible of those moral and social virtues, the promotion of which is the great object of all his works.

Although the short sketch here presented of a man who all his life long has "kept the noiseless tenor of his way," might at the first view seem of little consequence in a book of "Public Characters;" a moment's reflection will demonstrate to every feeling mind, that, as a life past in the unostentatious display and exercise of piety and virtue is of great honour and utility, so is the transmitting such an example to posterity an encouragement to the present dwellers upon earth to "go and do likewise."

THE EARL OF ROSSLYN.

THE father of Alexander Wedderburne was an eminent Judge in the Court of Session. His Lordship was born in 1733, and received his education at Edinburgh. At the university he so distinguished himself for genius and erudition, as to be admitted into a society of literary gentlemen, most of whom were much older than himself. The other members were Messrs. William Robertson, Adam Fergusson, Hugh Blair, John Home, and Alexander Carlyle. Young Mr. Wedderburne, in the company of these enlightened scholars, very much encreased his literary attainments. Accustomed to generalization and philosophy, to acute discrimination and logical discussion, he greatly facilitated the acquirement of legal knowledge, which he studied as a profession. In 1754 he was called to the bar, and gave indications at his first appearance of talents that must inevitably rise to high eminence. At this time Mr. Alexander Lockart was the most distinguished advocate in the Scottish Court. Between him and young Wedderburne a dispute arose on a point of law, in which the latter having shewn himself superior in argument, so provoked Mr. Lockart, who was a kind of dictator among his brother lawyers, that he declared he never would plead in the same cause with him. This declaration, as its author was retained on every important question, amounted to a professional proscription. Finding, therefore, that Scotland was
not

not the scene on which he could succeed, he hastened to a field fitter for employing extraordinary talents. On his arrival in London, he studied the English law and the English language. Debating societies were then very much frequented by men of talents and literature: of these the Robinhood Club was the principal, and there Mr. Wedderburne often attended; and having to contend with Mr. Thurlow, and even with Mr. Burke, he greatly improved himself in knowledge and in habits of reasoning. Having acquired a very considerable share of erudition as well as of legal and political knowledge, he became intimately connected with many of the most eminent literary men of the time, and, as a scholar, was esteemed superior to any lawyer who had appeared from the time of Lord Sommers. As a lawyer he soon acquired a high reputation, although from a Scottish education he was considered as having too great a predilection for the principles and modes of the *civil law*, and allowing greater latitude than was warranted by the precision of the English law. This, however, was a charge alledged against the greater number of Scotchmen at the English bar, and imputed to Lord Mansfield in many instances without reason. The abilities of Mr. Wedderburne soon procured him a seat in Parliament, and he became an accession to the Grenville party, about the same time as Mr. Burke joined that of the Marquis of Rockingham. He greatly distinguished himself in Parliament on various questions resulting from the Middlesex election; and was esteemed one of the chief orators who opposed the
Grafton

Grafton administration. His eloquence partook more of that of Cicero than of any other ancient orator. In clearness of narrative, fulness of explication, acuteness of reasoning, and elegance of diction, he greatly resembled the Roman. In pathetic, though from the different natures of British institutions and manners, he was more sparing than Tully, he was by no means wanting. On the death of Mr. Grenville he still continued to oppose ministry for several years. But in 1773 he accepted the office of Solicitor General, and became one of the ablest supporters of Lord North. About this time he appeared to great advantage as a legislator. Young men of great fortune (while minors) were very frequently a prey to usurers, to whom, in the inexperience of early youth, they granted annuities on the most extravagant terms, and to their eventual ruin. Mr. Wedderburne, to remedy this evil, proposed a bill, by which no annuity should be valid from a grantor under the age of twenty-one. The bill was passed, and has been extremely beneficial in its consequences, by saving many young men from perdition. Mr. Wedderburne was a strenuous advocate for the system of coercion adopted by administration respecting America. Here it must be admitted, that, in common with other very able men, he shewed himself deficient in political foresight. The information on which he proceeded proved entirely erroneous, and the conclusions which he drew altogether unfounded. In 1775 the Ministers proposed a bill to prohibit all trade and commerce with the United Colonies, with severe penalties against those who should transgress the law; and
Commissioners

Commissioners to enforce its observance. One of the ablest supporters of the proposition was Mr. Wedderburne, who reasoned with an ingenuity which few could equal ; and he was, indeed, considered as the framer of the bill. As this scheme was alledged to be contrived to starve America, and imputed to a Scotchman, it gave rise to many jokes. Wilkes, speaking of this case, and perhaps also alluding to the slenderness of the solicitor's person, called him *Starvation Wedderburne*. The Solicitor General, in the American discussion, was one of the chief supporters of a doctrine which tended for a long time to render the country gentlemen favourable to the coercive plans of administration. This was, that they were contesting for the attainment of *a revenue from America*, which would lessen the taxes in England. How little foundation there was for such an opinion fatal experience soon evinced ; but the error of this very able man proved no more than that men of great talents are not infallible. In 1778, when new regiments were raised by voluntary efforts, Opposition endeavoured to prove that the contributions were illegal. Mr. Wedderburne contended, that both the levies and pecuniary contributions were legal : the substance of his speech on this important subject was, the King, by his prerogative, was empowered to levy men, and to raise an army. When men were raised, the new levies were reported to Parliament ; whose duty it then was, if they judged the measure necessary, to provide for their subsistence ; or otherwise, if they disapproved of the measure, to press their censure on it, by giving a negative

tive to the supply, which was in effect a resolution for disbanding the troops. With regard to the money raised, it was not raised by government, but offered by individuals and bodies. There was no law against either individuals or bodies making a present of their own money to the King, or to whom they pleased. Voluntary contributions of either men or money, or both, had been frequently offered in times of national emergency, and highly approved of by men most distinguished for attachment to the Constitution in the rebellion of forty-five, and the beginning of the last war. In the former of these cases several of the nobility and gentry raised regiments at their own expence; and subscriptions were not only opened and received, but persons went about from house to house to collect money for the common defence.

In 1778, Mr. Thurlow having been appointed Lord Chancellor, Mr. Wedderburne succeeded him as Attorney General. This year, in recommending unanimity in the American war, he introduced the story of the famous Admiral Blake, who, though he disliked the measures of the Usurper, yet being in the service of his country, called his crew together before he began the engagement, and told them, that however they might differ in opinion as to the just causes of the war which they were engaged in, it was their duty to lay aside their opinions, and unanimously to fight the enemy. Upon this principle he thought the House ought to act. On the acquittal of Admiral Keppel the populace having been very riotous, the Attorney General had prosecuted some of the ringleaders.

ringleaders. Mr. Fox asserted in the House, that the official procedure was by the direction of Ministry. This assertion he denied, and delivered a very able speech on riots, their principles and consequences. In the year 1780 he was raised to be the chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and created a Peer by the title of Lord Loughborough. The first important business which came before him in his new office, was the trial of the rioters. His Lordship was appointed by a special commission to try delinquents in the Borough; on which occasion he delivered a very masterly charge, exhibiting a concise but complete sketch both of the offences and of the law which was applied to them. The charge underwent considerable discussion with regard to its legal propriety, but it was universally admired as a specimen of oratory. The learned reader must know that a very considerable difference has obtained between the law as expressed by the statute of Edward the Third, and as interpreted by lawyers. Of this difference, necessary to be remarked in illustrating his Lordship's doctrines, we cannot give a better account than in the words of Mr. Hume, extracted from his account of the trial of Lord Russel. The English laws of treason, both in the manner of defining that crime, and in the proof required, are the mildest and most indulgent, and consequently the most equitable that are any where to be found. The two chief species of treason, contained in the statute of Edward the Third, are the compassing and intending of the King's death, and the actually levying of war against him;

him ; and by the law of Mary, the crime must be proved by the concurring testimony of two witnesses, to some overt act tending to those purposes. But the lawyers, partly desirous of paying court to the Sovereign, partly convinced of ill consequences which attend such narrow limitations, had introduced a greater latitude, both in the proof and in the definition of the crime. It was not required that the two witnesses should testify the same precise overt act ; it was sufficient that they both testified some overt act of the same treason, and though this evasion may seem a subtilty, it had long prevailed in the courts of jurisprudence, and had at last been solemnly fixed by Parliament at the trial of Lord Stafford. The lawyers had used the same freedom with the law of Edward the Third. They had observed that, by that statute, if a man should enter into conspiracy for a rebellion, should even fix a correspondence with foreign powers for that purpose, should provide arms and money ; yet, if he was detected, and no rebellion ensued, he could not be tried for treason. To prevent this inconvenience, which it had been better to remedy by a new law, they had commonly laid their indictment for intending the death of the King, and had produced the intention of rebellion as a proof of that other intention. Lord Loughborough, in his charge proceeding according to the practice of lawyers and opinions of Judges, instead of the definition of the legislators, did, by a constructive interpretation, what Mr. Hume calls *confounding the two species which the statute had accurately distinguished*. There
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are, he said, two species of treason applicable ; to imagine or compass the death of our Sovereign Lord the King is high treason ; to levy war against the King within the realm is also high treason. The first, that of compassing the death of the King, must be demonstrated by some overt act, as the means of effecting the purpose of the heart, *the fact of levying war is an overt act of the species of treason*, but it is also a distinct species of treason. On *authority* he supported this constructive doctrine : every insurrection, lawyers alledged, which in judgment of law is intended against the person of the King, be it to dethrone or imprison him, or to oblige him to alter his measures of government, or to remove evil counsellors from about him, these risings all amount to levying war within the statute, whether attended with the circumstances of open war or not. And *every conspiracy* to levy war for these purposes, though not treason within the clause of levying war, is *yet an overt act within the other clause of compassing the King's death*.

It was by some lawyers objected, that it was not consistent with legal propriety to rest opinions on the *authority of Judges*, where they contravened an *express statute*, that the substitution of a Judge's opinion for the enactment of a legislative assembly was changing Judges into lawgivers. Whether it be constitutionally right that treason is to be ascertained by judicial interpretation, it is certainly historically true, that such has been the mode generally adopted on criminal trials ; Lord Loughborough merely followed the
example

example of his predecessors, as the insurrection had been very atrocious. Severe punishment was necessary; and the numbers executed were no more than a necessary sacrifice to order and tranquillity. His Lordship, however, humanely recommended to the royal mercy such as, though guilty, had extenuating circumstances in their conduct.

Occupied now so much by judicial business, Lord Loughborough did not engage so actively in political affairs as in the preceding part of the American war. He continued, however, to vote with Ministry, and when he did speak, was a very able apologist for conduct which, in the opinion of many, required a very able advocate. During the Rockingham administration, there being little or no opposition, Lord Loughborough, without entering into any political contest, remained connected with Lord North; on the discussion of the peace he joined with that statesman in forming, with Mr. Fox's party, the famous coalition. Much as the coalition has been blamed, yet by many it has been censured on wrong grounds. To arraign a union of men once opposite, or even inimical to each other, without considering the object of their combination, or the conduct of the members in their associated capacity, would be the result of prejudice not of judgment. A change of circumstances often renders it just to deviate from that plan of political conduct which it was once right to pursue, and to act with those men whom it was once right to oppose. The abuse thrown out against Mr. Fox, and the other members of the coalition, merely

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because they coalesced after much mutual obloquy, was the abuse of ignorant declaimers, not of impartial, informed, and able reasoners. It may be here observed, that, whatever blame might attach to Mr. Fox, for coalescing with Lord North, after venting so many bitter invectives against his conduct, it does not extend to Lord Loughborough. He never declared any opinion inimical to the talents and character of Mr. Fox; and therefore, if the object was laudable, there was no inconsistency on his part. After Mr. Fox's famous East-India bill had passed the House of Commons, Lord Loughborough supported it very ably in the House of Lords. The subject, however, having been previously considered in every possible light by Messrs. Burke and Fox, the ingenuity of Lord Loughborough himself could have little novelty. His Lordship was at this time one of the Commissioners in whom the great seal was vested, but on the dismissal of the coalition ministry, the commission expired, and the seals were again bestowed on Lord Thurlow. From the commencement of Mr. Pitt's administration, Lord Loughborough was one of the powerful band which then constituted the opposition. Though he frequently distinguished himself on various subjects of debate, yet the most remarkable occasion on which he displayed his talents was the regency. The plan adopted by opposition, and proposed by Mr. Fox, was universally ascribed to Lord Loughborough, and founded on the following principles: No case had, in the history of England, occurred which could be urged as a precedent applicable

capable to this specific source of incapacity that might occur, and proceeding on principles which might extend to all cases, that as the incapacity was ascertained, the principles of hereditary succession pointed out the remedy. The proposition was deducible from the principles of the constitution, and the analogy of the law of hereditary succession, that whenever the Sovereign was incapable of exercising the functions of his high office, the Heir Apparent, if of full age and capacity, had as indisputable a claim to the exercise of the executive authority, in the name and on behalf of the Sovereign, during his incapacity, as in the case of his natural demise. In answer to this doctrine it was alledged, that in such a case it rested with Parliament to supply the deficiency, as in other circumstances not before provided for by the existing laws. Where the regular exercise of the powers of government was from any cause suspended, to whom could the right of providing a remedy for the existing defect devolve but to the people, from whom all the powers of government originated? To assert an inherent right in the Prince of Wales to assume the government, was virtually to revive those exploded ideas of the divine and indefeasible authority of princes, which had so justly sunk into contempt, and almost into oblivion. Kings and Princes derive their power from the people; and to the people alone, through the organ of their representatives, did it appertain to decide in cases for which the constitution had made no specific or positive provision.

Respecting incapacity of any species in the holder

of the Crown for the time being, this plan is founded in a general principle, that, in new cases, those who are entrusted with the legislature should act and provide according to the emergency. Parliament could have no possible interest in acting any other way than as duty prompted, and wisdom directed; and as it was agreeable to history, reason, and expediency, that the legislator should provide for a specific object, it became them, in making the provision, to extend or contract the trust delegated according as they thought either necessary for its execution. The plan of opposition shewed a latitude of construction in explaining constitutional principles, which had frequently been deemed a prominent feature in the legal and political character of Lord Loughborough, and was, perhaps, on that account ascribed to his suggestion.

A great event took place soon after the proposed Regency, which appeared not likely to affect the interest and constitution of one kingdom only, but to give a new turn to human affairs. His Lordship, though in opposition to Government, yet friendly to the existing orders, did not regard the French revolution with that enthusiastic admiration which Mr. Fox entertained for it; he coolly waited until its nature should be unfolded, before he delivered any public opinion on its tendency and merits: and when it not only abolished the hierarchy and aristocracy, and oppressed monarchy, but was to be held up as a model for this country, he thought it was time for patriotic and loyal Britons to be on their guard.

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In 1791, and in the commencement of 1792, when the extravagant principles and pernicious inculcations of speculative innovators, and seditious demagogues, became so prevalent, his Lordship sacrificed party differences to what he considered as the general safety of the country, and joined those who resolved to rally round the throne and constitution. Liberal and enlightened in his views, he was far from regarding every man who thought differently from himself on abstract principles of government, blamable: he often imputed visionary theories to misapprehension of the subject; but he saw that well-meaning votaries of erroneous doctrines might be the instruments of very great mischief. He therefore was one of those who strenuously advised the proclamation for discouraging seditious publications: he was convinced that some were ingenious, and that all were not designed for evil which had an evil tendency; their tendency, however, was a subject for exercising the vigilance of counsellors. Being now appointed Chancellor, and having a principal share in the councils of his Majesty, he was very active in encouraging constitutional principles and associations. His Lordship was one of those who, when the country was in so alarming a state, towards the close of 1792, counselled those vigorous and decisive measures which saved it from destruction.

When the French, by invading our allies, by trying to overturn the balance of Europe, and to foment rebellion in this country, rendered war unavoidable, Lord Loughborough recommended hostilities. The

project of attacking Dunkirk has been frequently attributed to him, but there is no evidence to justify the assertion.

The progress of democratic opinions now produced a project of holding a convention of individuals, not recognised by the law of the land, as invested with legislative power; which band avowed their intentions of overawing the constituted authorities, of producing such a change as would amount to a subversion of our laws, liberties, and constitution. The discovery of these designs increased the unanimity of the nation at large. The Whig connection had now joined the Government, and were equally anxious with the old adherents of Mr. Pitt, that sedition and conspiracy should be vigorously opposed and punished. On the legal criminality of the persons accused, the opinions of Lords Loughborough and Thurlow were different.

The Chancellor, agreeable to that *latitude of construction* which was always deemed part of his judicial character, conceived that the design of holding a convention for changing the Government *would eventually lead*, if successful, to the King's death, and therefore amounted to the species of treason which consisted in compassing the King's death. Lord Thurlow, more in conformity to the accuracy of the English law, and of that particular statute of Edward the Third, which not only exactly defines treason, but expressly prohibits any interpretation of judges or lawyers from interfering with the plain sense of the definition, denied the criminality to amount to treason.

son. The moral depravity or intellectual folly of the persons arraigned, many, with Lord Loughborough, admitted, who, with Lord Thurlow, denied, the legal criminality. The opinion which the writer of this article heard advanced by friends of the existing Government was, that however morally guilty the intentions of Messrs. Hardy and Thelwall, or however politically mischievous their conduct might be, the only question which a juryman ought to ask himself, when any fact was proved, was, *Is or is not this the act of a man plotting the King's death?* The acquittal of the persons accused is certainly no imputation of the political wisdom of Lord Loughborough, or any other statesman who attempted to prevent the execution of such a project. It merely proved that the jury did not receive the legal definition of treason in the same sense in which the Attorney General used it as the ground of the indictment, or the grand jury as the ground for finding a bill. There might be devised, by the fertile invention of wickedness, many modes of conduct of equal moral culpability and political hurt with those that were punishable capitally. Every impartial man will see ground by inference, in cases where there are not grounds for verdicts. His Lordship warmly and ably promoted the bills for amending the treason laws, and for preventing seditious meetings. These assemblies, he was long aware, had become very prevalent, especially those for the purpose of hearing demagogues abuse the constitution in what they called lectures. Treason, it had been lately seen, had

not extended to every act of the highest culpability against the state. His Lordship therefore vigorously supported both the laws for prevention and punishment.

Owing to a declining state of health his Lordship resigned the seals to Lord Eldon, and at the same time was created Earl of Rosslyn. His Lordship is esteemed to be a most agreeable companion, and adds facetiousness and pleasantry to the brilliancy, acuteness, and strength of his genius. He is remarkably warm in his attachments. One of his principal favourites is Sir John Anstruther, who now exercises the office of Supreme Judge in Bengal, with great reputation. His Lordship early discerned the merit of this gentleman, and was particularly instrumental in his advancement.

He has been twice married. First to Miss Dawson, of Yorkshire, by whom he had no issue. Secondly, to Miss Courtney, sister to Viscount Courtney; and by this marriage he has a son about seven years of age.

His Lordship is slender in person, with a very quick penetrating eye and countenance. His constitution, never strong, has been much impaired by his indefatigable application to business during the whole of his life.

MR. DUGALD STEWART.

DUGALD STEWART, the son of Matthew Stewart, professor of mathematics in the University of Edinburgh, was born in 1758. His father, es-
teemed

teemed one of the best mathematicians of an age, the early part of which was adorned by Simpson and Maclaurin, was so deeply engaged in professional studies as to leave him little time for personally directing the tuition of his son. Dugald was therefore sent to the high school of Edinburgh; a seminary of which the plan and institutions rendered proficiency probable, but whose excellence has long been experimentally ascertained by the scholars whom it has formed. Thither, after the autumnal holidays of 1760, young Dugald, in the eighth year of his age, was sent to begin the rudiments of the Latin tongue. At the same time, and in the same stage of literary advancement, was sent thither Robert Thomson, who has since promoted classical erudition in his academy at Kensington, no less successfully than his school-fellow has advanced metaphysical, moral, and political philosophy in the University of Edinburgh. Between these two an intimacy then commenced, which, encreasing with their years and reciprocal esteem, ripened into the strictest friendship. In their puerile exercises, being nearly equal, and being both among the foremost of a class consisting of a hundred, their particular rivalry added to the effects of general emulation, and going through their course of six years with distinguished honour, they at their last examination were at the head of the school.

In October 1766, Mr. Stewart was entered at the university: Edinburgh College was then in very great repute for literature and science. The professors,

sors, by whom the characters of the students were chiefly formed, during the philosophy course, and previous to the commencement of studies, specially preparatory to either of the three learned professions, were Doctors Blair and Fergusson. The first of these gentlemen, as teacher of *belles lettres*, exhibited the rules of rhetoric and criticism; the second, as instructor in moral philosophy, unfolded cognitive and active man, traced him through social, civil, and political relations, and combining his powers and affections with the circumstances in which he was placed, deduced his duties, and shewed that their habitual performance led to individual and general happiness. There is no inseparable connection between a taste *feelingly alive to each fine impulse* and an understanding that can readily discover abstruse, comprehend manifold, and develope complicated truths. Excellent and practicable as Dr. Blair's precepts are, if received merely as he delivered them, and followed according to his inculcations, yet, by being imperfectly understood, they have very frequently produced superabundant attention to language and composition, with inadequate consideration of materials. Hence superficial elegance distinguished many of their productions instead of solid argument, important knowledge, and profound wisdom. To balance clauses and to round periods requiring much less intellectual ability than to think deeply and reason forcibly, young men, who aspired at distinction without being able to retain it by learning or genius, sought it by a polished style; observing

serving the letter of Dr. Blair's Lectures instead of the principles and spirit of his instructions, they addicted themselves almost exclusively to mere composition.

Another set, endeavouring to make Fergusson their model, devoted themselves to philosophical enquiry. Of these, some whose understandings were too shallow for investigating and comprehending such subjects, either became disgusting pedants, parroting what they did not understand, or visionaries and dupes to every new hypothesis which to their undiscerning minds bore the appearance of ingenuity and depth. But those who possessed intellectual powers sufficient for fully comprehending the doctrines, precepts and example set before them, for profiting from the lessons delivered, became thinkers at once deep and clear, reasoners acute and comprehensive, ready discoverers of truth, and successful appliers of their discoveries to the purposes of science, of art, and of conduct. But if this higher, or what may be called philosophical class of students, pursued their objects too exclusively, without adding some of the graces of rhetoric; instructive and momentous as the truths might be which they promulgated, they, with many, would lose great part of their effect by dry and uninteresting modes of communication. Young Stewart very happily joined uncommon depth of understanding with refined delicacy of taste, and with exquisite sensibility of affection. In his literary efforts we are to expect not only the man of intellect and of learning, but of taste
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and feeling. This was the composite character which marked our juvenile pupil of Blair and Fergusson, in the academical exercises by which he informed, instructed and delighted contemporary youth ; this is the composite character which stamps the investigator and unfolders of the HUMAN MIND, and distinguishes him from other profound metaphysicians of the age. He was an enthusiastic admirer of beautiful, sublime, and pathetic poetry, in ancient and modern languages. Besides his thorough comprehension of the thoughts and conception of the feelings represented from a nice ear and a flexible voice, he made great progress in the light but agreeable and useful attainments of elocution. His principal intellectual pursuits were history, logic, metaphysics, and moral philosophy. To his father's study of mathematics he paid no more attention than was necessary to avoid the censure of negligence; he merely learned the elementary branches taught in the class, and nothing more.*

* The writer of this article has been indebted to a friend for the following observations on Mr. Stewart's *Theory of Imagination* :

Hobbes was the first writer who analysed the faculty of imagination. The track which he marked out has been occasionally followed by several others: but amongst those who have treated this subject, Mr. Stewart stands unrivalled in point of copiousness and elegance. It nevertheless appears to me, that some of the principles which he lays down are fundamentally erroneous.

"The variety," says he, "of the materials out of which the combinations of the poet or the painter are found, will depend much on the tendency of external situation to store the mind with a multiplicity of conceptions; and the beauty of these combinations will depend entirely on the success with which the
power

When he was arrived at the age of eighteen, an event happened which rendered a much deeper knowledge of mathematics not only expedient, but

power of taste has been cultivated. What we call, therefore, the power of imagination is not the gift of nature, but the result of acquired habits, aided by favourable circumstances. It is not original endowment of the mind, but an accomplishment formed by experience and situation, and which, in its different gradations, fills up all the intervals betwixt the first efforts of untutored genius and the sublime creations of Raphael or of Milton. "An uncommon degree of imagination constitutes poetical genius."*

It will readily be granted that adventitious circumstances conduce to the improvement of this faculty, and that the power of taste directs its operations: but it does not hence follow that those who are placed in unfavourable situations, and have never cultivated their taste, are totally devoid of imagination. Yet this is a conclusion logically deduced from Mr. Stewart's theory. Now, upon a general survey of mankind, it is actually found, that the imagination is always most vigorous in those individuals whose taste has received little or no cultivation. In the rudest ages, and among the most barbarous nations in the world, it blazes forth in all its native splendour.

" In climes beyond the solar road,
Where shaggy forms o'er ice-built mountains roam,
The Muse has broke the twilight gloom,
To cheer the shiv'ring native's dull abode;
And oft beneath the od'rous shade

* Elements of the Philosophy of the Human Mind, chap. vii. sect. 1.

In another of his works he advances similar doctrines: "There are other more complicated powers or capacities which are gradually formed by particular habits of study or of business. Such are the power of taste, a genius for poetry, for painting, for music, for mathematics, with all the various intellectual habits acquired in the different professions of life."—*Stewart's Outlines of Moral Philosophy*, part I.

necessary. His father being seized with an indisposition which incapacitated him for continuing his professional labours for the benefit of the family, to

Of Chili's boundless forests laid,

She deigns to hear the savage youth repeat,

In loose numbers, wildly sweet,

Their feather-cinctur'd chiefs and dusky loves."—Gray.

No maxim is more trite than *poeta nascitur, non fit*. This ought indeed to be received under certain limitations; but it must by no means be rejected upon the mere assertion of a philosopher. Every man is by nature endowed with the faculty of imagination in more or less perfection, and poets possess it in a more eminent degree. It is the principal ingredient that enters into the composition of a true poet. If the circumstances which Mr. Stewart mentions are of themselves sufficient for enabling a man to excel in poetry, whence does it happen that so few have ever distinguished themselves in that department of literature? It certainly cannot be denied that many have pretended to the laurel crown, and had their claims rejected. Has this always proceeded from their want of assiduity in the cultivation of their taste, and the unfavourable situation in which they were placed? It assuredly has not. In these respects Homer most probably enjoyed no greater advantages than Apollonius; yet it would be ridiculous to place them upon an equal footing.*

Imagination is undoubtedly what no cultivation can bestow. The very notion of cultivation implies the pre-existence of an original faculty. As every human faculty is susceptible of improvement, that of imagination derives important advantages from situation and experience; but it seems somewhat difficult to conceive how these can endow the mind with a power of whose operations we were formerly unconscious. Our author must either have some secret meaning of his own, or advance doctrines altogether incomprehensible.

According to his theory, those who have not enjoyed certain advantages are utterly excluded from experiencing the pleasures of

* Vide Longin. de Sublimitate, § 33.

imagination.

prevent the expence of a hired deputy, Mr. Dugald Stewart was called upon to occupy the professional chair in the nineteenth year of his age. While deeply engaged in his private studies, and busily occupied with academical pursuits, both of preceptorial prescription and voluntary institution, he undertook the additional labour of preparing prelections as a professor. With such industry and success did he apply himself to the duties which filial piety dictated, that he not only taught his scholars the customary and prescribed lessons of mathematics, but inspired them with a love for the science. Imbued with the general principles of philosophy, and acquainted with the most certain and expeditious roads to science, his predisposed and prepared mind, with little difficulty,

imagination. The unlettered peasant cannot indeed enjoy them in the same degree of refinement with the man of taste, yet still he is no stranger to their influence. He does not regard the sublime and beautiful objects of nature with an eye of indifference; and the strains of the simple bard often captivate his fancy.

“ Ask the swain

That journeys homeward from a summer day's
 Long labour, why, forgetful of his toil
 And due repose, he loiters to behold
 The sun-shine gleaming, as through amber-clouds,
 O'er all the western sky? Full soon I ween
 His rude expression and untutor'd airs,
 Beyond the power of language will unfold,
 The form of beauty smiling at his heart.”—*Akenside.*

Philosophers have told us that in our dreams imagination is the faculty which we chiefly exert. If this is actually the case, dreaming must likewise be the result of acquired habits, aided by favourable circumstances,

mastered

mastered every one of its particular compartments, Happy in the talent of communication, what he meant to impart he conveyed to his hearers with ease and effect.

At this time there subsisted a very close literary intimacy between Mr. Stewart and three of his contemporaries, Mr. Robert Thomson, who has been already mentioned, Mr. John Scott, and Mr. Thomas Stewart. The two last, though by fortune destined to the remote and obscure stations of country clergymen in the adjoining counties of Perth and Fife, were not unworthy associates of Messrs. Thomson and Stewart. Scott, in brilliancy of fancy, vigour of inventive powers, forcible and impressive eloquence, equal to any man of his age, yet too desultory for connected investigation, and too indolent for multifarious detail, more rarely convinced them by his arguments than transported them by the brilliancy and strength of his imagery, or astonished them by the boldness of his conceptions. More correct in taste, more accurate and extensive in erudition, though less towering in genius, Mr. Thomas Stewart contributed a respectable share of information and entertainment to the juvenile stock. This assortment of varied ability stimulated and exerted the powers of Mr. Dugald. About this time he became acquainted with another literary gentleman, the extent of whose attainments, and the excellence of whose productions have always entirely depended on his own choice and attention. Through Mr. John Playfair, Mr. Dugald Stewart and Mr. W. Thomson became known

known to each other, and a friendly intercourse has subsisted between them ever since. Mr. Stewart has a very high value for the judgment of Dr. Thomson, and when he published his principal work, sent an interleaved copy to his old acquaintance William, requesting not only a general and philosophical criticism, but minute and detailed annotations upon it. Dr. Thomson, on the other hand, regards Mr. Stewart as one of the profoundest philosophers of the present time.

When Mr. Stewart had taught the mathematical class for about seven years, he was requested to undertake a task more congenial to his own predilections, and more conformable to his early and favourite studies. Dr. Adam Fergusson having been invited to accompany the Commissioners sent after the capture of Burgoyne to treat with America, requested Mr. Stewart to teach his class till his return. Mr. Stewart readily undertook the employment, and performed his engagement with an ability and reputation worthy of the chair of Fergusson. The Doctor having returned from America, resumed his instructions, and continued them till 1784, when his age, and still more his health, induced him to retire. Mr. Dugald Stewart, by the death of his father, was now sole professor of mathematics. The professional emoluments at Edinburgh arise from two sources—the salary, which is fixed, and the scholars, the number of whom depends chiefly on the character of the professor. In Scotch universities it is very usual for elderly incumbents to retire from business on the ap-
1800-1801. X pointment

pointment of a successor. On these occasions the new teacher is generally allowed the profits of the class, while the veteran master retains the salary. Mr. Stewart was by all allowed to be the fittest man for succeeding Dr. Fergusson ; and Mr. Playfair for succeeding Mr. Stewart. Had Mr. Stewart, however, become deputy professor of moral philosophy, his situation would have been less lucrative than as sole professor of mathematics. It was therefore agreed by the Town Council, patrons of the professorships, that Messrs. Fergusson and Stewart should exchange: Mr. Stewart thus became sole professor of moral philosophy ; Mr. Fergusson *emeritus* professor of mathematics, with Mr. Playfair for his acting deputy and eventual successor. To Mr. Playfair, who before held a country living, the appointment was advantageous ; and besides, the situation was much better adapted for the exertion and display of philosophical genius, than his parsonage in a puritanical district, far from such conversation as could attract a philosopher.

In his plan of mathematical tuition, Mr. Stewart shewed himself not merely a mathematical scholar, narrowing his views to the mere relations of quantity and figure, but a philosopher. He considered his subject as being itself a science ; connected with other sciences, containing a certain class of evidence requiring specific intellectual exertions ; and forming particular intellectual habits.* Mr. Stewart was now

* Mr. Stewart is far from conceiving that a peculiar kind of genius is requisite for succeeding in mathematics. He thinks that any understanding, neither stupid nor feeble, may, by close attention and judicious exertion, become a mathematical scholar.

● extremely

extremely intimate with the learned and profound Dr. Reid, whose talents and efforts have made such great additions to the knowledge of the human mind. With that venerable sage, Dr. James Gregory and Mr. Stewart passed a great portion of their time, discussing those subjects, his treatise on which Dr. Reid afterwards published as *Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man*. This work its author dedicated to these two young friends, and acknowledged that he was much indebted to their observations. "If," says he, "these Essays have any merit, you have a considerable share in it, having not only encouraged me to hope that they may be useful, but favoured me with your observations on every part of them, both before they were sent to the press and while they were under it."

Dr. Reid's object in the work in question is to apply to the operations of the human mind experiment and induction, which in two centuries had produced such wonderful accessions to physical knowledge; to disregard hypotheses and to discourage analogical reasoning as the means of truth; and to confine the pneumatologist's studies to mental phenomena, their general laws as deduced by observation, and the application of those laws. Much as had before been written concerning the human mind, our knowledge of that subject was still so imperfect, as to require a much greater portion of analytical investigation for the establishment of facts and principles than of synthetical deductions from established laws. Dr.

Reid's production may be styled the anatomy of intellect.

Mr. Stewart having devoted much of his time and study to the consideration of these important though abstruse subjects, composed a work on the "Elements of the Philosophy of the Human Mind." Prefatory to the work itself there is an introductory discourse on the nature and objects of the philosophy of the human mind, and on the utility of that philosophy when attained. Dr. Reid having by investigation made so great a progress in the study of the human intellect, Mr. Stewart found it in such an advanced state as not to require analysis exclusively, but that it admitted of a considerable portion of deduction and application. Mr. Stewart's plan containing analysis in a certain degree, also includes exhibition of the principles in action; he not only unfolds the springs of thought and sentiment, but shews their operation in active pursuits. Some critics having read this work superficially, conceived that it was chiefly a comment upon Reid; but this is by no means an adequate or complete view of the work. In the analytical part he is frequently subsidiary to his illustrious predecessor, but though generally an approver, he is by no means a repeater of Reid's doctrines. The result of his investigations is a great portion of original discovery; especially on the subjects of conception and abstraction. After analysing abstraction, the association of ideas, memory, and imagination, the work, with very great ability, profound

found research, and a most extensive range of knowledge, demonstrates the effects which different exercises and habits of those faculties produce on human characters, and the specific purposes to which the faculties are severally subservient. In the chapter upon abstraction, after having expounded the differences arising in general study or general practice, from different habits of abstraction and generalization, a section devoted to the use and abuse of general principles in politics, very thoroughly explains the philosophy of government, and displays a most profound acquaintance with the principles and progress of political establishments. On this subject, however, the benevolence of his heart leads him to favour a theory unsupported by experience, farther than is consistent with his usual rejection of hypothesis as a guide to truth. The system of Turgot and Condorcet, formed upon a fiction of the imagination, that man is a perfectible being, presenting human nature in a very desirable view, by impressing philanthropic hearts, has sometimes imposed through their affections on very acute and powerful understandings. Mr. Stewart, in the section in question, evidently conceives that greater accessions may be made to the perfection and happiness of the human character than we have from fact or experience any data for concluding. For the adoption of this opinion we might perhaps find the cause in the feeling, taste, and imagination of the author, rather than in the habits of investigation, the extensive and profound knowledge, and the ractiocinative talents which he possesses in so

transcendant a degree. Though not inimical to the economical system, he admits that, in the present circumstances of society, an attempt to reduce it to practice would be extremely absurd. In this section, the most extensively important of the work, he exhibits, in a very clear and striking light, the intellectual difference that will lead to hasty political innovation, and that will lead to a vigilant attention to the actual state of society, and the whole circumstances of the case, before it ventures on projects of reform.

“Political philosophy,” he observes, “by extending our views to the whole plan of civil society, and shewing us the mutual relations and dependencies of its most distant parts, cannot fail to check that indiscriminate zeal against established institutions, which arises from partial views of the social system, as well as to produce a certain degree of scepticism with respect to every change, the success of which is not insured by the prevailing ideas and manners of the age. Sanguine and inconsiderate projects of reformation are frequently the offspring of clear and argumentative and systematical understandings; but rarely of comprehensive minds. For checking them, indeed, nothing is so effectual as a general survey of the complicated structure of society.”

These two classes of character, often as they have been observed in individuals, have never before been generalized. Their justness we see in their extensive and appropriate applicability; on the one hand to theoretical sciolists, such as the recent votaries of political change; and on the other, such wise philosophers as Aristotle, Polybius, Cicero, and Bacon. The first set see objects in partial and detached lights; the second comprehended them in all their connections and combinations. After analysing the
association

association of our ideas, he illustrates his doctrines from the phenomena of wit, of rhyme, of poetical fancy, of invention in the arts and sciences, on our speculative conclusions, or judgment in matters of taste, and our moral preceptions, sentiments, and principles. In treating of memory he is peculiarly instructive concerning the means of cultivating and improving that faculty. The chapter upon imagination, equally deep in analysis and deduction, is peculiarly pleasing in his illustration.

The "*Elements of the Philosophy of the Human Mind*" will transmit the author to posterity as a man who united most profound metaphysical genius with elegance and taste; whose learning with the whole circle of philosophy included agreeable and light literature; who knew the human understanding and affections in their anatomy and their active force; who comprehended the human character in its general nature and operations, as modified by different circumstances, and exhibited in the existing manners of modern society.

The author has since written several works which do justice to the high character he had attained. The most eminent of these is his "*Life of Dr. Adam Smith*," one of the best specimens of philosophical biography to be met with in any language. He is at present engaged in preparing for the press a life of Dr. Robertson. The very high character of Mr. Stewart brings to the University of Edinburgh many students of rank from England, that they may enjoy the benefit of his instructions. He has conversed

with men as well as with books, and mixed with general society ; so that he possesses the manners of a gentleman as well as the science and genius of a scholar and a philosopher. In company he is very modest and unassuming. You may see that he is an extraordinary man, but he takes no pains to shew his superiority. He is not copious in common-place details of passing occurrences ; and to a superficial observer, in a large and mixed company, he would appear to act an underpart to the utterers of mere recollections, or repeaters of hacknied sentiments and opinions. Mr. Stewart is very amiable in private life. Among his pupils he is a liberal and distinguished patron of indigent merit. Of Scotch literary men of the present age, as of those residing in England the first rank is generally allowed to Mr. Mackintosh, so of those residing in Scotland the first rank is allowed to Mr. Stewart.*

DR. HUGH BLAIR.

THE lives of literary men seldom abound with prominent features sufficient to arrest the attention : their biography is chiefly confined to the number and objects of their works ; nevertheless the justly acquired celebrity of Dr. Blair renders an account of his life a great *desideratum* to the literary world.

Dr. Hugh Blair was born at Edinburgh, April the 7th, 1718, at his father's house, who was a merchant

* Dr. Fergusson we ascribe to the last age.

in that city, and grandson to the well-known Robert Blair, minister of St. Andrew's chapel in the reign of King Charles I. This Robert left two sons, David, the elder, who became a clergyman at Edinburgh, and was father to Robert Blair, minister of Athelstonford, the author of the beautiful poem entitled "The Grave," and grandfather to that eminent lawyer of the same name, who now fills the office of Solicitor-general for Scotland. Hugh, the younger son, followed the business of a merchant; and from him descended the subject of this memoir. Their more remote descent was from the ancient family of *Blair*, one of the most respectable in Scotland of those which are called *gentlemen's families*, that is, families which are *noble*, though inferior to the dignity of the *peerage*.

After the usual tuition at the grammar-school, he was entered, in 1730, of the university of Edinburgh, where he took his degree of M. A. in 1739. The medical sciences, even before that period, were taught in that illustrious school with eminent ability and success. Pure and mixed mathematics were also recommended to students by the genius and scientific ardour of Maclaurin, the friend of Newton, and the best interpreter of the Newtonian philosophy. Logic, ethics, the principles of classical and elegant literature, as well as theology, were, perhaps, explained with inferior ability and reputation. But these last mentioned branches of knowledge had been already illustrated by great writers in the English language, whose works were admired and fondly studied by every *ingenious* scholar among the Scots. This was, indeed,

indeed, the very æra at which the Scots in general first began to discard their own dialect from all their more elaborate compositions, for pure and classical English. Arbuthnot, Thomson, Mallet, and several other natives of Scotland, whom the fortune of life carried to England, had distinguished themselves in the very foremost ranks of English literature; and all the studious youth of Scotland were now eagerly fixing their eyes on these great examples, and aspiring to emulate their fame. David Hume, the historian, and Henry Home, Lord Kames, published, about this time, their earliest works. It was at this æra, too, that the Latin language began to give place to the use of the English; in the academical *prelections*, and in the mutual converse between the professors and their pupils, at all the Scottish universities.

Blair, as was related by an old fellow-student of his, who is since dead, did not particularly distinguish himself during the first years of his residence in the university by any uncommon literary enthusiasm, or singularly intense application. But when he entered upon the study of theology, his genius began distinctly to *unfold* itself, and to assume that peculiar bias under which it was to act in its *future* exertions. His first exercise in theology displayed an elegance of composition and a justness of taste and sentiment which excited the emulation of the most eminent among his fellow-students. Success inflamed that enthusiasm. In the farther progress of his studies, the correctness of his judgment, the refinement of his taste, the vivacity of his fancy, and the
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the general elegance of his genius, became continually more conspicuous. It was his practice, both now and during a considerable part of his after-life, to make copious extracts from the books which he read, and regularly to digest them according to the train of his own thoughts. History, in particular, he carefully studied after this manner; and, in conjunction with some youthful students, he arranged a new and ingenious plan for comprehensive tables of chronology. The scheme was, at first, devised for his own private use; but it was afterwards improved, filled up, and given to the world by his learned relative, Dr. John Blair, prebendary of Westminster, in his valuable work entitled "The Chronology and "History of the World."

At the time when he was licensed as a preacher of the presbyterian church of Scotland, even the first discourses which he delivered in public from the pulpit, were at once reckoned to excel almost every thing of the same kind that had been hitherto heard in Scotland.

It must indeed be owned, that, until Blair and some of his contemporaries arose, the style of preaching which was most prevalent in the Scottish pulpits, did not very widely differ from that of the famous *Friar Gerund*.

It was common for the Scottish clergy to value themselves upon the length, the loudness, the extemporary effusion, the mingled mysticism and vulgarity, the canting recitation of their sermons, much more than upon any of those qualities which can
alone

alone gain the approbation of rational piety and genuine taste. The congregations to which those sermons were addressed agreed in the estimation of their merits. A considerable share of fortitude and manliness of mind that could scorn injudicious censure or applause, was therefore requisite in the young preacher who aspired to distinguish himself by a more legitimate excellence. There was manly virtue, no less than taste and genius, in the choice of Mr. Blair. He quickly found his reward in the approbation of all the best judges of pulpit eloquence. He was regarded as one of the rising literary ornaments of his country; and in the year 1742 was presented to the rural benefice of Collessie, in the county of Fife.

The ardour with which many of the Scottish clergy apply to study in their earlier years is oftentimes wholly relaxed when they obtain a *living*. But Mr. Blair's successful promotion only augmented his diligence, and enlivened his desire of rising to more eminent distinction by the culture of pulpit-eloquence and polite literature. About this time he renewed and made more intimately familiar his acquaintance with the Greek and Roman classics, read, with eagerness and attention, the most eloquent discourses of the French and English divines, and endeavoured anxiously to furnish himself with a rich store of genuine English phraseology, by the diligent perusal of the writings of Addison, Atterbury, and Swift. But of all the helps to excellence which he now cultivated, it is probable that the most useful was his confining himself rigorously

rously to do upon all occasions of composition and of preaching, his best; never to suffer sloth, a presumptuous confidence in his talents, nor scorn for those before whom he was to make an effort, to betray him into negligence. This honest and manly care soon became with him a fixed and predominant habit; and to it, more perhaps than to any thing else, is to be attributed the greatness of his subsequent success.

From Collessie he was in 1743 removed to the metropolis, where he became minister of Cannongate; and in 1758 was promoted to the High Church of Edinburgh, the first ecclesiastical charge in point of precedence and importance in Scotland.

About this time he received the compliment of the degree of D. D. from the University of St. Andrew's, the oldest university in Scotland; and in the year 1761 he was created a Professor in the University of Edinburgh, where he read almost the first course of *Lectures upon the Principles of Literary Composition* which were delivered in Scotland. Only Dr. Adam Smith, the celebrated author of the *Wealth of Nations*, had delivered to a respectable audience a series of discourses not very different from those of Dr. Blair. Smith had discontinued the prosecution of this undertaking, and had been appointed to the professorship of moral philosophy in the University of Glasgow, before our professor commenced his *Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres*. This undertaking was patronized, as it deserved, by all who had any regard for literature and elegance.

The

The celebrated Henry Home, Lord Kaimes, and David Hume the historian, were particularly zealous in promoting the lecturer's success. Accordingly his Majesty was soon after induced to endow a professorship of rhetoric and belles lettres in the University of Edinburgh, and to nominate Dr. Blair the first professor with a salary of 70*l.* per annum. The number of the students who resorted to hear his lectures continually encreased. His class-room was constantly crowded; and it was universally allowed that no course of lectures delivered in the university could be more beneficial to the hearers.

He from this time continued, agreeably to the general practice of the university, to deliver them every winter, for above twenty years, till, for the reasons given in the preface to his printed Lectures, he chose to resign, and became *professor emeritus*.*

Dr. Blair's first attempts as an author were in two occasional sermons, a versification of some passages of scripture, and a few literary articles in the "Edinburgh Review;" a work which made its first appearance in 1755, and though ably conducted soon fell to the ground. Not long after his appointment to

* Among many distinguished persons who failed not to attend Dr. Blair's lectures on rhetoric, was the Prince d'Aschoff, of Russia, son to that lady whose name makes a distinguished figure in the history of those intrigues which placed the late Empress Catharine on the Russian throne. This young nobleman, with his mother, the Princess d'Aschoff, resided some time at Edinburgh, while the Prince went through a course of study in the University. Dr. Blair's politeness made him duly attentive to these illustrious strangers.

the professorship, we find the Doctor very active, in conjunction with his friend Mr. John Home, in assisting the late Mr. Macpherson in his publication of the remains of Ossian. To recommend those poems to the public, Dr. Blair published, "a Critical Dissertation on them." These poems are fragments of ballads in the *Scoto-Celtic* language, and of uncertain antiquity. It is now generally believed, that Macpherson, the translator and publisher of these fragments, must have altered them, in his publication, with a very improper and unfaithful licence, which leaves it almost impossible to distinguish what parts of his translation are genuine, and what parts forged by the pretended translator. But whatever might have been done, Blair engaged himself in the controversy, and became the avowed champion of Macpherson. Blair's dissertation simply illustrates beauties in these poems, of which the existence was never questioned, but of which the nature was never more happily explained. This Dissertation on the Poems of Ossian is, perhaps, the finest critical composition in the English language. It combines the precision and acuteness of Aristotle with the eloquence of Longinus. No critic was ever more remarkably the great sublime which he draws, than Dr. Blair in this essay. It has passed through many editions, and is now usually prefixed to the Poems of Ossian.

In the year 1777, he published a volume of sermons, universally admired as they were delivered from

from the pulpit. His sermons had already become the objects of very general imitation among the younger clergy of the Scottish church. In combination with his lectures, they had begun to accomplish a general change in the character of the pulpit-eloquence of Scotland.

Blair sent the manuscript to a celebrated Bookseller of London (Mr. Strahan), who, after keeping it some time, wrote a letter to him, discouraging the publication. This is one of the many instances of the unpropitious state of the most successful books that have appeared. Mr. Strahan by some accident lent one of the sermons to Dr. Johnson for his opinion; and, after his unfavourable letter to Dr. Blair had been sent off, he received a note from Johnson of which the following is a paragraph:

"I have read over Dr. Blair's first sermon, with more than approbation; to say it is good is to say too little."

Very soon after this time Mr. Strahan had a conversation with Dr. Johnson concerning them, and then he very candidly wrote to Dr. Blair, enclosing Dr. Johnson's note, and agreeing to purchase the volume, for which he and Mr. Cadell gave *fifty pounds*. The sale was so rapid and extensive, and the approbation of the public so high, as more than to gratify the Booksellers' warmest hopes of profit from it; to their honour be it recorded, they made Dr. Blair a present of fifty pounds some time after its publication.

These

These sermons no sooner appeared in print, than the public unanimously concurred with Dr. Johnson in appreciating their merits.

The first edition was quickly sold. It became *fashionable* with all ranks, with both sexes, even with those who scarcely read any other books on the subject of morality and religion, to read, with real or affected eagerness, the *Sermons of Blair*. New editions were rapidly multiplied. Many of the Clergy of the Church of England read these discourses to their congregations from the pulpit, instead of new compositions of their own. Such uncommon success made the booksellers solicit, with great eagerness, other sermons from Dr. Blair, who accordingly published a second volume in 1779, for which he received 200l. copy money. Since that time the whole sum for both these volumes was made up 500l.

The year after the publication of this volume the Doctor received a pension on the Exchequer of Scotland of 200l. a year, at the express desire of the Queen, who, on hearing the sermon on "The proper Estimate of Human Life," read to her by Lord Bute, thought that some permanent mark of the royal favour should be conferred on the author. In addition to this anecdote, another very interesting one relative to these sermons will be pleasing to our readers. Dr. Blair is said to have declared, that the purest satisfaction he ever felt, relative to the diffusion of his writings, was on being informed, by a gentleman from one of the West India islands, that he had found the Sermons in the possession of a negro,

who, of an evening, used to read them to his family, with an ardour and a piety that would have done honour to any rank or condition among a polished people.

When he proposed a third volume of sermons in 1790, the booksellers at once offered him 600*l.* for the copy-right of that alone. It is also confidently reported, that for the fourth volume published in 1796, he received 2000*l.* sterling. These volumes have had an astonishing success, not only in Great Britain, but all over Europe. There have been frequently surreptitious editions re-printed, in their original language, in both Ireland and America. In the French language there are two editions of them; one in the Dutch; and one in the German, by Mr. Sach, chaplain to the King of Prussia;* one in the Sclavonic, or Hungarian; and there is at this time a translation in considerable forwardness in the Italian.

About the year 1783, Dr. Blair, who was then considerably advanced in years, was, at his own desire, as before stated, permitted to retire from the exercise of his duties as professor of rhetoric and belles lettres, but his salary was continued for life, and an addition of 100*l.* made to his pension. Upon this event he began to revise and prepare his lectures for publication, as several imperfect copies of them, com-

* Dr. Blair's writings have been no where more highly admired than among the Germans. The late amiable Dr. Zimmerman, whose fine work upon Solitude is universally known and admired, bestows the most impassioned praise upon the effusions of the genius of Blair, and quotes his works as models of the most perfect literary excellence.

posed chiefly from notes taken by students who heard them read, were circulated ; and, to prevent their being sent into the world in an imperfect or erroneous form, he was induced to publish them himself.

“ In composing them,” he says, “ as a public professor, he thought it is duty to communicate to “ his pupils not only original, but useful matter.” The world received them with the same eager curiosity and approbation with which they had been heard in the class-room. It was universally confessed that no language, ancient or modern, possessed among the stores of its literature, a system of critical rules, and of principles for the formation and the direction of taste, at once so judicious, so comprehensive, and so faultlessly elegant. These Lectures were soon translated, like Dr. Blair’s other works, into several other European languages, and re-printed in America and Ireland, as well as in Britain. They have passed through six successive editions in the hands of the original publishers. They have been abridged and extracted into a number of compilations, possessing no other merits of such utility as that which is derived from them. No work has been hitherto produced in English to supersede or rival them. They display sometimes originality, always justness of thought, without being deformed by any excess of ornament. They are written in the most ornate style that the *didactic* species of composition can legitimately employ. There is no other book which will afford so comprehensive a view to persons who are studying to cor-

rect a bad taste, or to form a good one for the beauties of composition or public speaking. Dr. Blair received for the copy-right of these Lectures 1500l.

In 1796, Dr. Blair published "*The Compassionate Beneficence of the Deity,*" a Sermon preached before the Society instituted for the Benefit of the Sons of the Clergy of the established Church of Scotland, price 1s. 6d. but it has been since prefixed to the fourth volume of his Sermons. This elegant discourse appeared with the peculiar advantage of a strong prepossession in favour of the writer. It was expected, as coming from Dr. Blair on so interesting an occasion, to be an excellent discourse; nor were the public disappointed. The representation here given of the character of the Almighty, as the friend of the distressed, is very impressive; and the whole discourse may be pronounced equal to any in the language.

Dr. Blair's character as a man was not at all inferior to the eminence of his merits as an author. He extended his studies beyond the provinces of *theology* and *taste*. The sciences which respect material nature, shared his attention, with those which are denominated, in general the *moral sciences*. He carefully collected the best books on every branch of human knowledge. His conversation was lively, agreeable, instructive, manly, and unassuming; his manners polished and courteous; his temper gentle, and his spirit beneficent and humane. He lived in the first circles of society, and enjoyed their unbounded kindness and veneration. All the preferments and
 emoluments

emoluments which he obtained were the rewards of his virtues and his literary attainments alone, not the prize of ambition or of intrigue.

Kaimes, Smith, Hume, Robertson, Boswell, Ferguson, were among his literary contemporaries, and enrolled in the long list of his friends and admirers. He zealously patronized genius, and was always ready to encourage in young persons a love of learning and taste. Dr. Robertson communicated all his manuscripts to his friend Blair before he sent them to the press. When he had obtained his judgment and corrections, but not till then, he accounted himself *secure* against criticism, on the side of arrangement, figures, style, and general sentiment. Indeed, no man of literary eminence in Scotland, having access to Blair, would venture to publish any thing without obtaining his judgment. The late celebrated Mr. Bruce, of Kinnaird, the discoverer of the Nile, asked and obtained Dr. Blair's opinion concerning the alterations and corrections requisite to be made in a second edition of his *Travels*, which he was then preparing for the press; but Mr. Bruce's sudden death prevented this edition from appearing.

Dr. Blair and Dr. Robertson lived in habits of great literary intimacy, and, perhaps, none ever performed more services to all those ingenuous youths around them who appeared promising or deserving. Upon the death of the latter, it was the general wish that Dr. Blair should be appointed to succeed him as Principal of the University of Edinburgh. But his great age made him decline undertaking to discharge

the duties of any new office. The public, however, were universally mortified and disappointed, although unquestionably a man of great merit was nominated to the place.

Amid the late contention of political opinions excited throughout this country in consequence of the French revolution, Dr. Blair continued gravely and zealously faithful to the British constitution. His authority and influence, the authority and influence purely of personal merit, contributed, in the most eminent manner, to maintain that spirit of generous and manly loyalty which pervades the metropolis, and indeed the whole kingdom of Scotland.

Like Milton, the Doctor was an eager reader of romances, of which the Arabian Nights Entertainments, and Don Quixote, were among his greatest favourites. He was one of the earliest admirers of Mrs. Radcliff's talents for novel writing, and highly recommended it : and he honoured Mr. Pratt's "Emma Corbett" with particular praise.

In the course of Dr. Blair's literary life, he frequently visited London, and mingled in the literary circles of that great city ; and he was introduced to the personal acquaintance of the late Dr. Samuel Johnson, by whom he was deservedly esteemed.

In conversation he never affected the praise of a wit or a disputant ; nor did he ever engage in any literary quarrels. Scarcely ever had any man of such distinguished eminence fewer enemies. An only daughter, of great accomplishments, was taken away from him by a fever, in the very flower of her youth and beauty.

beauty. Mrs. Blair, a very excellent and amiable woman, who was nearly about the same age with her husband, died a few years since.*

MR. BARRY.

THE delicate habit of preferring to all other achievements the triumph of intellect; and to all pleasure the contemplation of intellectual beauty and grandeur, was the happy cause which carried ancient Greece to a refinement of taste and an elevation of virtue that no country has yet rivalled. Man never exceeds the standard of his motives; and to this maxim we must look when we would account for the

* This truly great, good, and amiable man expired December 27th, 1800. "On the 24th of that month (says Dr. Finlayson) he complained of a pain in his bowels, which, during that night and the following day, gave him but little uneasiness; and he received, as usual, the visits of his friends. On the afternoon of the 26th the symptoms became violent and alarming: he felt that he was approaching the end of his appointed course, and retaining to the last moment the full possession of his mental faculties, he expired the next morning, with the composure and hope which became a Christian pastor.

"The lamentation for his death was universal and deep through the city which he had so long instructed and adorned, Its magistrates, participating in the general grief, appointed his church to be put in mourning; and his colleague in it, the writer of this narrative, who had often experienced the inestimable value of his counsel and friendship, delivered, on the Sabbath after his funeral, a discourse to his congregation."

The year following appeared a fifth volume of Dr. Blair's Sermons, which he had himself arranged and fitted for the press.

failure of generous spirits who have in vain attempted to reform a sordid age or nation. It will be a melancholy thing for this country, if these reflections are justly excited by glancing over the materials that form the substance of this paper.

The first public transaction of Mr. Barry distinguished his character with a broad and indelible line. The story deserves to be minutely told. He was born in the city of Cork, in the kingdom of Ireland, and received there all the aid to future excellence that is given by a regular and classical education; but it is well known that Cork is no school of painting, nor of any of the fine arts, and yet on that spot, and unassisted by any direct instructions, in his nineteenth year he planned and painted a picture whose fate seems more proper to embellish a romance than to be, as it really is, the ornament of a true history.

Among the legends of his country he found a tale, called *The Baptism, or, the Conversion of the King of Cashel*; which story he embodied on canvas, and then proceeded to Dublin, accompanied by a friend and school-fellow, Mr. Cornelius Mahony, to exhibit his picture. In the capital of Ireland, there was a society, the mother of our *Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce*. Mr. Barry arrived on the eve of an exhibition of pictures at this society; and going to their room without even a solitary letter of recommendation, and in company only of his friend, as obscure as himself, he at once obtained his request to have his picture placed on the wall. By its side were two historical paintings of
men

men of the highest reputation in the country, one of whom had long studied in the schools of Italy. Whatever Mr. Barry's hopes had been, and they could not be small to lead him into such an enterprize, they fell far short of his exultation when he viewed his picture on the wall, and then looked at its rivals. Genius, humble in the presence of its kindred mind, never forgets its elevation when poor and mechanical arts presume to be its competitors. Mr. Barry predicted success to his enterprize, and withdrew to his inn, with feelings that compensated for years of painful toil.

When the company on the following day assembled, Mr. Barry stood unknown in the midst of them. All eyes were on the *Baptism of the King of Cashell*. A murmur of applause arose; loud conversation on its powers succeeded; at length, admiration and praise gave way to curiosity and interrogations. "Who is the painter?" was demanded by a multitude of voices. As no one knew more than another of the matter, the question was put to the attendants on the exhibition: they could say only that a young man brought the picture on the eve of the exhibition. "It is my picture," said Mr. Barry, whose sensations may well be imagined, though never capable of being expressed. "Your picture! What do you mean?" "Not that you painted this picture!"—"Yes: I painted it."—"You! a raw boy!"—"Why, do you doubt me? I can paint a better!"—He was treated as an impostor, and his pretensions were by some ridiculed, by others insulted. He burst into
tears

tears of anger. Every person pressed then to the spot of altercation. The spectacle was uncommon ; and a pause ensued, during which a gentleman entering the room, thrust himself into the circle, and taking the *raw boy*, as he had been termed, by the arm, exclaimed, " Barry, what does this mean ?" An explanation followed ; the gentleman, who had been his school-fellow, declaring, he knew his friend to be capable of a great deal, although, indeed, he did not expect such a picture as that from him.

It will probably be concluded that the evidence of the spectators of this picture affords no very correct notion of its real merit. The painting no longer remains to be evidence for itself ; but the subsequent part of its history may be allowed to speak in its behalf. The Dublin society voted Mr. Barry 20l. although no premium for painting had been offered that year by advertisement. Three eminent members of the Irish Commons bought the picture shortly after, and presented it to the House as an honour to Ireland, and it was consumed by the fire that some years afterwards destroyed the parliament-house in Dublin. Few stories, indeed, have been selected with such felicity as the subject of that painting. St. Patrick, it is known, is the tutelary saint of Ireland ; and every story concerning him is allied to the feelings of the country. But the tale chosen by Mr. Barry was replete with passion to try the creative powers and grandeur of conception of an artist. St. Patrick arrives in the kingdom of Cashell, on the sea-coast, at a distance from the court. He preaches the novel doctrine

trine of Christianity with great success ; his fame reaches the ears of the King, who makes inquiries concerning the nature of his doctrine, and is told, the innovator preaches *One God, and a purer system of morals than had been yet known to men.* The King, a lover of science, and versed in the druidical learning, is curious to know for himself the character of these morals, and goes in disguise to hear St. Patrick. When the priest had concluded his sermon, the King, delighted with his eloquence, invites him, in the name of one of his own officers, to court. St. Patrick accepts the invitation ; is received by the courtier, who is prepared for the purpose, in a friendly manner, and invited to preach before the King. St. Patrick recognizes in the monarch his former auditor ; and, perceiving his advantage, exerts all his powers to secure an illustrious convert. The discourse finished, the Monarch advances to St. Patrick, avows himself his disciple, and requests an opportunity to propose some doubts which notwithstanding cloud his mind. The priest attends the King in a spacious field, surrounded with his courtiers and guards ; the Monarch's scruples are removed ; he descends from his throne, and solicits to be initiated in the mysteries of Christianity. St. Patrick tells the King he must be baptized. The Monarch, with the fervour of a new convert, declares his cheerful assent to whatever ceremonies the priest may propose. Water is brought by St. Patrick's order. The King stoops before the priest ; who, preparing to baptize him, hastily disengages his hand from the crossier.

According

According to the manner of the times, the crosier is armed with a spear at the lower end; and St. Patrick, in planting it in the ground, strikes the spear through the foot of the Monarch. St. Patrick, occupied with his holy office, does not perceive what he has done, and pours the water on the head of his royal convert. The Monarch neither changes his posture, nor raises his eyes. The guards are in commotion; one lifts his battle-axe to slay St. Patrick, but he is withheld by another, who, pointing to their master, bids him to take notice how patiently he submits to the ceremony. The female attendants who had brought the water are some kneeling in admiration of St. Patrick, whom they eye as he pours the water on the King, and others transfixed with horror as they view the royal blood copiously flowing on the sword.

It is the moment of the baptism, rendered so critical and awful by the circumstance of the King's foot being pierced with the spear, that Mr. Barry seized for his picture; and it is at once seen that the heroic patience of the King, the piety and intense occupation of mind of St. Patrick, and the agitation of the spectators, form a noble subject for the canvas, while they set an illustrious mark on the character of the man who, self-instructed, at the age of nineteen conceived the bold design of executing so grand a work.

A few days after the exhibition of the picture, two gentlemen called at Mr. Barry's apartments, and asked for him. He was from home. They desired to see the painting; and having first expressed their surprise at the merit of the design and the composition,

tion, they fell into a conversation on certain defects. The person who attended them was Mr. Barry's friend and travelling companion, Cornelius Mahony, who now lodged under the same roof with him ; and so blind a partizan was he of the young painter's fame, that he was actually on the point of thrusting them out of the room, as, with a great deal of choler, he told Mr. Barry on his return. The following day the two gentlemen called again, and one of them introduced himself to Mr. Barry, by putting a letter into his hands. The letter was written by the celebrated Dr. Sleigh of Cork, a man whose amiable character it is impossible too highly to extol, and whose generous conduct to the unfortunate Dr. Goldsmith is so well known to the world ; and the person to whom it was addressed, and who then stood before Mr. Barry, was no other than Edmund Burke. Dr. Sleigh and Mr. Burke had been school-fellows and friends at the famous *Quaker school* at *Ballatore*, to which it was the practice to send other boys beside the children of Quakers ; and this letter was voluntarily written to recommend the young painter to Mr. Burke's notice. " We do not know much of painting in this place," said Dr. Sleigh ; " but we think Mr. Barry's picture a work of genius, and even a fine production, independent of the disadvantages under which it was painted."

An intimate acquaintance grew up between Mr. Burke and our painter. A little anecdote of one of their conversations is curious and worth preserving.

A dispute

A dispute happening between them on some subject of taste, Mr. Barry quoted the *Treatise on the Sublime and Beautiful*, as authority for him. Mr. Burke said, "Do not talk of that work, it is a poor performance."—"The Sublime and Beautiful!"—"Yes."—Mr. Barry, warm in his attachments, defended his favourite. Mr. Burke was equally pertinacious in his censure; and when Mr. Barry grew a little too angry with him, he said, "I know the work: I wrote it myself." Our painter sprang upon his feet, embraced the author, and then ran to a shelf, and took down a copy of the book which he had entirely transcribed with his own hand.

Mr. Burke was at that time in Ireland, under the patronage of the late Duke of Northumberland. In high connexions himself, he did not neglect the talents that needed his countenance; and although building up his own fortunes, he was no niggard of his means to rear those of his friend. He saw the necessity of Mr. Barry's proceeding to London, and thence to Italy, and he already meditated the accomplishment of both objects. But Mr. Barry fostered a temper of independence approaching even to a faulty austerity. He was eager himself to be in London; but he curbed his impatience till the superfluity of his revenue furnished the purse for his expences. The reader may smile at his scruples, when he is told that our painter was engaged in making copies from supposed originals of Guido, Vandyke, and other masters; for ignorant employers; but he
will

will revere his constancy when he hears that he saved a fund for his journey from the scanty produce of this servile labour, rather than burthen his benefactor.

When Mr. Barry had been nine months in Dublin, where he found no opportunity of improvement in his art, except that which genius discovers in every place: and for every art, Mr. Burke sent for him one day, and said, "My brother Richard is arrived from the West Indies, and is going to London; you shall accompany him; it will be more agreeable for you on the road, and he will do you some service in England." Mr. Barry went with Mr. Richard Burke. He was soon made known to Sir Joshua Reynolds, Dr. Johnson, the Athenian Stuart, Dr. Goldsmith, and other eminent men. Mr. Stuart gave him employment, which he readily engaged in, since, by providing for his subsistence, it left his mind at liberty to range over that world of perfection, which vulgar language is pleased to represent as ideal, but of which the poet, the painter, the orator, and the hero, have as substantial enjoyment as of the food they eat.

It is a popular opinion, that the life of a studious man furnishes barren materials for the historian; yet if we could retire with him into his closet, accompany him in his walks, and go with him into society, we should very much change that notion. It would be productive at once of delight and instruction, if we could follow Mr. Barry for the few years that immediately succeeded his arrival in London, although we should find no glare of light spreading
over

over that period. His studious hours were employed in accumulating general principles of improvement, and his hours of relaxation in the enjoyment of the friendship of Mr. Burke (who had returned to England) and those other great men we have named.

The schools of Italy were still to be visited. Mr. Burke had never forgotten them ; and when he came into administration with the Marquis of Rockingham, he sent for Mr. Barry, and said : " Go now to Rome ; " and regard me as your banker." In consequence of this generous action, Mr. Barry went to Italy ; and we may well sympathise with his feelings, when we see him touching the shores of that country in which were to be found the most perfect sensible mediums of that beauty, the object and prize of all his labours.

The practice and habit of analysing and classing all objects, gave him a seemingly intuitive perception of beauty and deformity, together with a solid knowledge of their source and principles, while others were repeating words of rote, and running in a ring round a few half-formed and unessential ideas. Thus employed, and with this temper, the opinions of the President Montesquieu, the Abbé du Bos, and the Abbé Winkelman, respecting the influence of climate and food on the imagination and taste of a people, naturally attracted his notice. The fame of Montesquieu is well known ; and the other two writers stood high in the estimation of readers conversant in books of taste and criticism. Their notions were calculated to divert the passions to wrong objects, and to lower the very hopes of mankind.

England

England was above all interested in the question ; for those writers represented her as bereaved of taste by the constitution of things ; of taste, one of the highest of heaven's gifts. Mr. B. could not fail to detect the shallow mistake. With a glance he could trace moral causes in all the operations of the arts. He was instantly sure of his principles, and already silently triumphed over the undesigning, but the dangerous enemies of true taste : yet he wisely resolved to avail himself of all the illustration afforded by a residence in Italy, where, within a comparatively narrow circle, he could peruse the whole history of the arts of Greece and Italy in existing monuments, and could inspect existing instances of their rise, progress, perfection, decay, and extinction. He completed the investigation by following the course of the arts wherever they flourished ; and thus prepared for success, he wrote an answer to Montesquieu, Du Bos, and Winkelman, in an inestimable book, entitled, "*An Inquiry into the real and imaginary Obstructions to the Acquisition of the Arts in England.*" It was published by Becket in 1775, a little after Mr. Barry's return from Italy. It is impossible to express the triumph of that work. The writers above mentioned had been compelled, by their fanciful system, to maintain that our poets "cannot arrive at that particular kind of delicacy that springs from taste ; that they cannot arrive at any true imagery ; and that they strike the ear with a great noise, and present nothing to the mind." Mr. Barry took a mild but ample vengeance for this insult on our poets, in illus-

trations from their works ; and Milton, Shakespear, and Pope were vindicated in the spirit of a poet, and with the dignity becoming the grandeur of the cause the writer rescued from ignorance and prejudice.

It would be a desertion of the just praises of the "*Inquiry*," to speak of it only as an able exposition of mistakes relative to obstructions to the arts in England. It analyses the true causes of the humble state of the arts in this country ; it developes the real sources of excellence in the arts, as they are found in the manners of a people ; in a word, that publication affords a lesson on that most comprehensive subject, which will be ever read by persons of taste with admiration for its various knowledge, with pleasure for its fine illustrations, and with gratitude for its importance to all that is refined in morals as well as in arts.

Hitherto Mr. Barry's life was gilded with more constant sunshine than usually rests for any length of time on human affairs. Accident had impressed on his earliest passions that preference for intellectual beauty, which it is the labour of the moralist to inculcate, which it is the fate of millions never to comprehend ; some happy impulse directed him to the study of an art, in which, perhaps, the most perfect beauty is to be found ; his unassisted efforts in the cultivation of the art recommended him to public notice, introduced him to the choice society of genius and worth, and to the protection of one of the men who have most adorned humanity ; this tutelar friend enabled him to complete his studies in Italy, as if fortune

tune resolved to make the delightful opportunity more blessed by the hand that bestowed the favour; the happiest occasion presented itself, of contributing, from the mine of knowledge he had so successfully explored, to the defence of his country in the very dearest part of her interests; and to close this calmer part of the scene, envy as yet was silent.

Two years after Mr. Barry's return from Italy he was elected *Royal Academician*; and in 1786 was made Professor of Painting to the Royal Academy. He had vindicated England for her capacity of eminence in the arts; and he had now to correct her actual taste. The task was of the most difficult nature. It may be viewed as consisting chiefly of two parts; first, the academy was to be raised from a *drawing school* (by which name Mr. Barry has very properly described it) to a *school of painting*; and, secondly, the nation itself, as well as the pupils of the academy, was to be taught, that the order of things is reversed in the practice of painting in England, and the least things in the art set above the highest. A glance is sufficient to perceive how many honest prejudices, and how many sinister designs, the Professor of Painting had to encounter.

There was a fund in the academy, accumulated from the receipts of exhibitions, amounting to 14,000*l*. This Mr. Barry proposed to the academy to be employed in the purchase of pictures, to form a gallery of the old masters for the use of the pupils, they having little to aid them in the departments of design, composition, and colouring; in a word, in the art of

painting. A negative was put on that proposition. He intreated the academy for 500l. to make a beginning towards forming a gallery, relying, and no doubt justly, on the spirit of the public to complete the work. Even this boon to the English art of painting was denied by the academy. It gives a sufficiently good specimen of Mr. Barry's vexatious enterprise, to state; as the result of that part of his struggle, that he was condemned to see that sacred fund, which the nature of the thing consecrated to the perfection of the English school of painting, voted for *a fund to furnish pensions to academicians and associates, and their widows.*

Having failed with the academy, Mr. Barry turned to every quarter from which aid could come. He addressed a letter to the *Dilettanti Society*, to urge to that illustrious body the necessity of a gallery of pictures for the pupils at the academy, and to recommend the beginning of so great, so honourable a work to the society. Here also, and that is matter of surprise, here also he failed.

In the letter to the *Dilettanti Society*, he respectfully represented how glorious it would be to his Majesty, the patron of the academy, if some of the old masters in the royal collections were given as a beginning to a gallery. In the Professor's lectures the same theme was pathetically urged; and it is almost incredible that it was urged in vain.

In the second part of the Professor's arduous attempt, that of placing the higher things of the art as they should be, at the top, it was not possible that talents and zeal could be utterly fruitless. He had
made

made no little impression in behalf of that attempt by his "*Inquiry*;" no little impression by his "*Letter to the Dilettanti Society*." In his lectures, from the chair of the professor, he unremittingly pursued the same most valuable object. While he instructed the pupils in the theory of the various departments of the art, he lost no occasion of calling their minds to the due order of the parts, and of censuring the taste for subordinate beauties and for mean subjects in painters and employers; and it is not possible all that mass of learning on the art should be lost with his pupils, by whom, indeed, he was so greatly revered, that it was usual for them to say, "He deserves a statue of gold."

But it was not only by his lectures and his publications that Mr. Barry endeavoured to turn the tide of passion into nobler channels, he exemplified his precepts in his own conduct with the purity of the best of times. There can be no doubt, if Mr. Barry had chosen to cultivate *the science of prospering in the world*, he might have reached as great a height in it as those who have made it their study. If he had chosen to have *appeared* the worshipper of little men of rank and power, he might have been in his turn the real object of their worship. Nothing was wanting to cover himself with the gaudy splendor of a fashionable artist, but an ambition to be a thing of that description. He preferred another kind of success. He chose to give to his pupils an example of a *liberal practice of a liberal art*; and to posterity a testimony that, in an age when a passion for trifles in painting

characterized the country, he could comprehend and embrace its noblest purposes.

It requires more courage than will be generally imagined, to accomplish a scheme of this nature. Mr. Barry had before him a melancholy example of its failure in the late Mr. Hussey. The fate of that unfortunate man is fraught with instruction, as it inculcates the necessity of courage, superadded to other great qualities, in those who attempt, in any art, or science, or virtue, to reform a people. Mr. Hussey was a younger son of a Roman Catholic gentleman, of small but competent fortune. He was designed for the church, and sent to St. Omer's for education. When he was thoroughly versed in all the science of that college, and was preparing to take orders, the superior wrote to his father, to intreat him not to bury his son in the priesthood; he represented the young man as possessing talents of the highest order, with a taste for drawing and design that promised to make a great painter; and he urged the father to send young Hussey to Rome to study painting, which advice was followed. At Rome Hussey was regarded as a painter that would restore the splendor of the art. His fame reached England; he returned to his native country, qualified in all things but courage to raise her above her little ambition in matters concerning taste. He was patronized by the late Duke of Northumberland, for whom he painted a *Bacchus* and an *Ariadne*, which still are to be seen at *Sion House*, as proofs of what his genius was capable. His style was grand. He was full a century before his cotemporaries in his knowledge

knowledge of the art. He had embraced an ambition of the noblest kind ; an ambition “ to be the “ happy instrument (to use Mr. Barry’s words) of introducing to his country the true sublime style of “ historical art, founded upon the Grecian purity of “ design, and blended with whatever was great and “ estimable in the celebrated leaders of the Italian “ schools, and their followers who imitated and improved upon them.” But he who outruns his contemporaries will be the object, and, if he has not fortitude, the sacrifice of their malignity. Mr. Hussey’s patron was ridiculed out of his taste, and Mr. Hussey shaken from his purpose. He descended to portrait painting for subsistence ; but those who could not paint even portraits as well as himself, could more skilfully wield the weapons of intrigue ; and for some years this once adventurous spirit could earn the scantiest meals by no other means but making copies from a likeness he had taken of the *Pretender* when at Rome. An anecdote will shew to what distress he was reduced. The late Mr. Duane, the celebrated conveyancer, was, it is well known, a collector of pictures. Mr. Duane was one of the last of those who continued to do acts of kindness to the unfortunate Hussey. He one day went to Hussey’s lodgings, to take the painter to dine with him, to meet a nobleman and another person of rank who wished to have copies of the *Pretender*. Hussey begged to be excused. His only remaining patron pressed the invitation, and was almost angry with what he thought proceeded from resentment at not being asked more

formally. But Hussey, above all men, was free from a captious temper; and Mr. Duane, at last, wrung the secret from him—he had no linen to appear in, the only shirt he had being in his landlady's tub. Mr. Duane removed that difficulty; and was led by his humanity to inquire into Hussey's situation, which he did not apprehend to be so low. He found it deplorable enough; and learnt that he increased his distress by his benevolent disposition, having two or three pensioners still poorer and more helpless than himself, who came to him for a little weekly aid, which sometimes he begged, but more frequently gave from his own morsel.

It is pursuing this story a little beyond its direct use in this place, to record the close of Mr. Hussey's life; but there is something to compensate for the digression in the amiable conduct of his brother. Mr. Hussey, driven out of all employment, retired at last to his brother, who had succeeded to the paternal estate, and begged some little hovel to live in, and some small provision for his support. The brother melted into tears, and said, "You, my dear brother! you live in a hovel! You are a man. You are an honour to the family. I am nothing. You shall take this house and the estate, and I will be your guest if you please." The brothers lived together without its being distinguishable who was proprietor of the estate, till the death of the elder put the painter in possession of it. That unfortunate man was deranged in his intellect in the latter part of his life, and died in that melancholy condition.

Mr.

Mr. Barry used this example with wisdom, in extracting from it all its gold for his own purpose. Hussey had conceived a generous design. Mr. Barry, with the simplicity of true genius, disdains to pilfer in secret what it is honourable to take openly.

“ It would be arrogating too much,” he says in his Letter to the Dilettanti, “ to suppose I had of myself fallen upon this scheme of study, or that I was any other than a follower in the track Mr. Hussey had chalked out; and which his impatience or his misfortune, his own want of fortitude, or the impudent shameless perseverance of his opponents, prevented him from carrying into execution, and, I fear, brought about a tendency to mental derangement, which left the matter hopeless.”

Mr. Hussey's mistake was, that he timidly abandoned the field to his adversaries, or weakly gave them opportunity to drive him from the high ground he had taken. Mr. Barry was the man whom a council of the old masters would have selected to carry the conquest of arts into Britain. The fortitude of his mind nothing external could shake, and nothing within existed to undermine. His policy was too profound for the *Punic* school of his opponents. He triumphed in all that depended on human power. To set the example of *a study of the art for itself*, and in the study of *an attention to all the higher excellencies, in preference, though not to the neglect of, mechanical dexterity*; and to leave a monument of the art that should be worthy to make a new and happier æra in its history, were all that any man could do. The rest was to be left to other moral causes, which he could not influence, or could influence but faintly. He held the professorship as long as he could with honour,

honour, and long enough for his purpose in one material article to success, that is to say—to keep him from starving; and he cultivated and gained the good will of the *Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce*, thereby inducing them to be the associates of his enterprize, and the immortal sharers of his triumph. That society had the discernment to engage Mr. Barry to decorate their great room with paintings; and there his noble pictures are, to exempt him and them from the national reproach, as long as England patronizes a false and disgraceful taste. In a word, Mr. Barry triumphed over his enemies at the very moment they thought they were preparing the means of his defeat; and when their mine exploded, he was no longer on the ground they had hollowed for his ruin.

We now arrive at a transaction in Mr. Barry's history, that, in the opinion of many persons, erects a monument of glory to his name more durable than would be erected if the favourite expression of his pupils, "he deserves a statue of gold," was reduced to practice. We allude to his expulsion from the Professor's chair, and afterwards from the academy. We shall rigidly confine ourselves to facts.

In March 1799, a body of charges, together with personal information in support of them, were received by the council at the Royal Academy, against the Professor of Painting, relative to his academical conduct; and it was resolved by the council, "that the charges and information were sufficiently important to be laid before the whole body of academicians
" to

“ to be examined ; and if they coincide in opinion,
“ the heads of those charges then to be communi-
“ cated to the Professor of Painting.” And, by order
of the council, a letter was written to Mr. Barry, to
inform him of the same. On the 19th of March the
academy met, received the minutes of the council
respecting the charges, and referred them to a com-
mittee of eleven. On the 16th of April the aca-
demy met, to receive the report of the committee,
which being read, Mr. Barry rose, and demanded
that he should be furnished with a copy of the re-
port, which he pledged himself to prove to be made
up of mis-statements and direct falsehoods, which
might be easily dissipated ; the demand being re-
jected, Mr. Barry argued on the darkness and injus-
tice of the proceedings, and withdrew, after declaring
“ he should leave them to prosecute whatever they in-
“ tended ; but if they acted upon the illicit motion,
“ that they should proceed to vote on the matter,
“ taking the whole of the charges for granted, with-
“ out giving him any copy whereby to defend him-
“ self, by manifesting the falsehood and impudent
“ chicanery of the charges and statements, he should
“ be ashamed to belong to them.” Mr. Barry having
withdrawn, the academy, by a vote, removed him
from the office of Professor of Painting ; and, by a
second vote, expelled him from the Royal Academy.
Finally, the journals of council, the report of the
committee, and the resolutions of the general as-
sembly, having been laid before the King, his Majesty
was graciously pleased to approve the whole of the
proceedings,

proceedings, and strike Mr. Barry's name from the roll of academicians.

Although we forbear to comment on the proceedings of the academy, we cannot forsake our duty to Mr. Barry so far as not to remark his triumph in this very transaction, as making part of his grand and hitherto successful operations. He had laboured, and, let it be observed, in conjunction with that ornament of this nation, the late President of the Royal Academy, to elevate the academy to the noble purposes of its institution; he had publicly charged persons in the academy with sacrificing the honour and interests of the society to sinister views; he had extorted an answer, in the shape of charges preferred against him in the academy; the matter, therefore, between him and his opponents was at issue before the public, if the charges preferred against him in the academy were not buried in the bosom of the academy, by his being denied a copy of them; and if they were so buried, he stood, before God and man, the only object of reverence in the dispute, the sole and entire victor.

Mr. Barry has painted the story of Pandora. It is a picture of immense size, being eighteen feet long and ten broad; and when it is added, that this picture is distinguished for its grace, beauty, and dignity, a little commendation may be given to its magnitude. The figure of *Pandora* is, perhaps, as perfect a female form as ever the pencil produced. This painting is still in Mr. Barry's possession, he having not yet satisfied his own rigid taste in the execution
of

of the work. And here it occurs naturally to speak of an addition he proposes to make to his personages in the picture of the *Elysium* at the Adelphi. Between *Columbus* and the angel unveiling the solar system, he has introduced (in an engraving made by himself of the picture) *Queen Isabella* of Castile, *Magellan*, and the venerable *Las Casas*. On the bandage, which binds the Queen's crown on her head, is this significant inscription—" *Isabella pawned her*
"regal jewels to produce the sum of two thousand five
"hundred crowns for the discovery of America, that
"being the sum demanded by Columbus."

Mr. Barry has painted two pictures, which, beside those at the Adelphi, are well known to the public; *Jupiter and Juno*, engraved by Mr. Smith; and *Venus rising from the Sea*, engraved by Valentine Greene in mezzotinto, and by Facius in the dotted manner.

At present he is painting a picture on the subject of that with which he commenced his career—the *Baptism of the King of Cashell*. The study of this picture is a most beautiful thing. The action is such as we have related, speaking of the former picture; and in the back ground is a noble landscape, a mountainous country, on the summit of which are several single stones, of large dimensions, placed on an equilibrium, so as to vibrate when moved, and which were, in all probability, the idols of the druidical worship; and on a range of hills below is a large temple of the Druids, resembling what we may well suppose *Stonehenge* to have been in its pristine state; and
since

since there is now no doubt that human sacrifices were offered in those temples, the idea is most happily insinuated of the importance of the action of the picture, *the King's baptism*, by which is introduced into that country the milder morality of the christian religion.

Mr. Barry, among other occupations of his active mind, is revising his lectures read at the academy, in the Professor's chair; and it is not only to be hoped, but expected, that he will hereafter deliver them himself to the public with enlargements, containing new matter important to the progress and refinement of the arts.

This extraordinary man has engraved a set of prints, from his series of pictures at the Adelphi, in a bold, vigorous, and fine manner; in fact, with the characteristics of his mind in all his enterprizes.

It is grateful to a reader to know something of the domestic life of eminent men. Mr. Barry occupies a house, in which no human being resides but himself, performing all domestic offices with his own hands. He is abstemious in his food and drink, frugal in his habits, and almost incessant in his application to his studies; yet he receives some friends whom he reveres, and is cheerful, communicative, and, it is almost superfluous to add, interesting in conversation.

K.

MR.

MR. JOHN IRELAND.

IT has been said by somebody, that he who writes anecdotes, and draws characters of men that have recently died, is stirring up ashes that are not yet cold, and may chance to burn his fingers. The partialities of friendship, and prejudices of enmity, have not yet subsided, and the biographer is considered by one party as having raised them above their proper level, and by the other as having sunk them below it. To write of those that are yet living is a still more delicate task; as different persons will see the same men through different mediums, it is not easy to obtain the character of impartiality. We shall, however, endeavour to deserve it; and with this regard think that a few particulars concerning a man who has marked himself by many entertaining productions, and given so highly approved an illustration of Hogarth's works, may be acceptable to the public.

Our information is collected from a gentleman with whom Mr. Ireland was once very intimate: in our statement of facts, we therefore hope to be correct, and in the conclusions which we may occasionally draw from them, we shall endeavour to be dispassionate.

He was born at the Trench farm, near Wem, in Shropshire, in a house which had been rendered somewhat remarkable by having been the birth-place and country residence of Wycherley the poet; and is descended from a race that were eminent for their conscientious adherence to their religious principles.

His

His father was a farmer, who, during the whole of a long life, was highly respected by all who knew him, for the probity of his mind and simplicity of his manners. His mother was the daughter of the Rev. Thomas Holland,* and great grand-daughter of the Rev. Philip Henry.†

The first circumstance that we learn concerning

* This excellent man was more than thirty years minister of a dissenting congregation at Wem, in Shropshire. He was a younger brother, and had little or no support except from the income of his ministry, which (exclusive of presents from his congregation, who considered him as a father) did not amount to forty pounds a year. He sometimes boasted that he had educated ten children, three of them at Dr. Doddridge's academy, in a manner that qualified them to fill respectable stations in a respectable manner; that he had always a place at his table for any friend that called upon him; that a beggar never left his door without some sort of relief; and that he never had a dun at his gate, for he paid ready money for every article he purchased, except his milk score, which was discharged every Saturday night.

Mr. John Holland, who about the year 1750 published two volumes of sermons, which are marked with liberality of sentiment and elegance of diction, was his near relation, and we believe he is also descended from the translating Philemon Holland, of whom a contemporary epigrammatist writes,

“ Philemon with translations doth so fill us,
He will not let Suetonius be Tranquillus.”

† The first time Mr. Ireland was introduced to Doctor Johnson he was stated to be a descendant of Mr. Philip Henry, on which this great and good character remarked, in his emphatic manner, “ Sir, you are descended from a man, whose genuine simplicity and unaffected piety would have done honour to any sect of Christians, and as a scholar he must have had uncommon acquirements, when Bushy boasted of having been his tutor.”

Mr. .

Mr. Ireland is, that during his childhood a lady of considerable fortune, of the name of Shrimpton, was so partial to him, that she told his father he might consider his son John as provided for, as she would adopt him, and take care of his future fortunes. The reader will believe this lady was not very young, when he is informed that her first husband was the Wycherley* whom we have mentioned. As she always past her summers at Mr. Ireland's father's, she,

* Mr. Edward Blount relates some particulars of the marriage in a letter to Mr. Pope, dated January 21st, 1715-16.

“ Our friend Wycherley had often told me, as I doubt not he did all his acquaintance, that he would marry as soon as his life was despaired of: accordingly, a few days before his death, he underwent the ceremony, and joined together those two sacraments which wise men say should be the last we receive; for if you observe, matrimony is placed after extreme unction in our catechism as a kind of hint of the order of time in which they ought to be taken. The old man then lay down, satisfied in the consciousness of having, by this one act, paid his just debts, obliged a woman who he was told had merit, and shewn an heroic resentment of the ill usage of his next heir. Some hundred pounds which he had with the lady discharged those debts; a jointure of four hundred a year made her a recompence; and the nephew he left to comfort himself with the miserable remains of a mortgaged estate. I saw our friend twice after this was done, less peevish in his sickness than he used to be in his health, neither much afraid of dying, nor (which in him had been more likely) much ashamed of marrying. The evening before he expired, he called his young wife to his bed-side, and earnestly entreated her not to deny him one request, the last he should make. Upon her assurances of consenting to it, he told her, “ My dear, it is only this, that you will never marry an old man again.”

on returning from one of these visits, insisted on taking her favourite to her own house in Fludyer-street, Westminster, to which place he accompanied her before he was ten years of age. The airy hopes and flattering prospects this created soon vanished, for the lady not long after died without a will.

He was soon after this sent for a short time to his mother's brother, the Rev. Philip Holland, an accomplished and elegant scholar, and many years minister of a dissenting congregation at Bolton, in Lancashire. This gentleman undertook to teach a limited number of pupils, and it was intended that his nephew should have been included in the list for a time sufficient to have qualified him for the ministry; but, for what reason we know not, his destination was afterwards changed.

For parents to discover from the disposition of the boy what will be the bias of the man, is not easy; and if it is found, it is not always acted upon: Mr. Ireland, at that early period, discovered a strong predilection to letters and painting, but his friends thought he had also a turn for mechanics, and therefore determined to make him a watchmaker, and to that business he was accordingly devoted.

While yet very young, he married an amiable and estimable woman, of a turn and temper exactly congenial to his own, and, with every prospect of success, engaged in an extensive business. In this, though his connections were numerous, and his knowledge of his art indisputable, he was not successful.

We have heard this ascribed to his having placed
too

too great a confidence in some persons whom he entrusted in business, and believe that this was the immediate cause : but we are inclined to think that his not being fortunate as a trader may be traced to other sources. From what we have before said of Mr. Ireland, he appears to have had a stronger bias to the fine arts than to those denominated mechanic. For pictures and prints he had an enthusiastic fondness, and in each class, especially in the works of Mortimer and Hogarth, had a well selected collection ; and of books, a well chosen library. A collection of pictures and prints may sometimes engross more time than is compatible with the strict attention which business imperiously demands. The same reasoning will apply with still greater force to a collection of books, especially if the possessor reads the works which he has purchased, which we are told Mr. Ireland did, and that in an evening, Henderson and he alternately read to each other, and remarked—reasoned—differed—agreed—laughed—or wept, as they were incited by Sterne, Swift, Cervantes, or Shakspeare.

Added to this, the company Mr. Ireland kept were better calculated to inform his mind than improve his circumstances. *Noscitur a socio* is as applicable as *noscitur a libris* ; and we have been told that he then lived on terms of the most unreserved intimacy with many men that were eminent in the arts, at the bar, and in the church ; and at his table were to be met Mortimer, Gainsborough, and Henderson, with

many other characters highly distinguished for talents and taste, most of whom have long since

“Shook hands with death, and call’d the worm their kinsman.”

Of Mortimer, Mr. Ireland has inserted the following account in his *Life of Henderson*, where, after giving a list of the books which most attracted this actor’s attention, and enumerating many that contained relations of barbarities at which almost every other man would have shuddered, he adds the following note :

“If it should be inferred from hence that his disposition was cruel, the inference would be unjust. Mortimer, the historical painter, in whom were united the savage grandeur of Salvator Rosa and the terrific graces of Spagnolette; who joined to a sublimity of idea, and accuracy of delineation, not exceeded by Michael Angelo, a delicacy of pencil equal to Teniers; was most happy, and, I think, most successful, in painting objects from which the common eye withdrew.

“From hints in Fox’s *Book of Martyrs* he made a number of most spirited sketches, in which are represented the sufferings of men, women, and children, the executioners scorching their hands with lighted tapers, burning their eyes out with hot irons, and the whole exhibition of the uses made of those powerful engines of argument, the whips, hooks, racks, but above all the *thumb vice*, by which unbelievers are screwed up to the proper faith.

“Yet with this disposition for contemplating and displaying such objects, Mortimer had a soul *open as day to melting charity*, a tear for pity, and a heart the most susceptible of tender impressions. He made the kindest allowances for the errors of others, and would not have trod upon the poor beetle. When he erred, —and who shall dare to name any man as faultless?—his errors had their root in virtues which the generous warmth of his heart carried to excess. Added to all this, he had an hilarity that
brightened

brightened every eye, and gladdened every heart, I knew his mind well, but that knowledge should have deterred me from attempting to describe it, had I considered that Sterne has so exactly delineated the leading features by which it was actuated, in the benevolence and sensibility of character which distinguished his uncle Toby.

“ In the society of Mortimer I passed some of the happiest years of my life, and the remembrance of the very intimate, brotherly, and unbroken friendship with which we were united until his death, affords me one of those melancholy pleasures which may be felt, but cannot be described—a tear drops at the recollection. The loss of such a friend leaves a chasm in one’s life and happiness which is very rarely filled up.”

With Gainsborough he was upon the most friendly terms, and that admirable artist presented to him an excellent portrait of Henderson, of whom Mr. Ireland was the first protector; for in his house this popular actor resided many years, as a friend and a brother, before he could be admitted to try his strength on the stage, though aided by every recommendation which Mr. Ireland or any of his connections could afford him. When Mr. Garrick afterwards recommended him to try his fortune on the Bath stage, Mr. Ireland took down a large party to give some sanction and support to the new performer on the first night of his appearance. Indeed, by all we have heard, he seems to have been full as much interested in Henderson's success as he was in his own, which, by these pursuits, was not likely to be much forwarded. But as this and the preceding conclusions are drawn from conjecture, as conjectures we request they may be received. Be the cause what it might, Mr. Ireland was thus thrown into a new walk, which,

though it was neither paved with gold, nor strewed with roses, was, we believe, much more congenial to his taste, and consonant to his talents, than that which he had quitted.

The Life and Letters of Henderson, which were published in 1786, are stated in the preface to have been the first book he had written : but this we believe is meant to be understood, with some limitations, as intimating it to be the first book to which he prefixed his name ; for previous to that time, we are inclined to think he had written, or been a party in writing, other volumes ; as we also believe that many articles in some of the Reviews, and critiques and essays on the arts and other subjects, in prose and verse, which have appeared in the periodical prints, &c. are the productions of his pen.

The next publication with his name prefixed was *Hogarth Illustrated*, in two volumes. For the works of Hogarth, we have already said, he had an early predilection, so that we can readily conceive he engaged in their illustration *con amore*.

From his partiality to the arts, his eager enquiry into every circumstance that was connected with this eminent artist or his prints, and also from the number of eminent painters, &c. with whom he lived in habits of intimacy, the admirers of Hogarth,—and who are not his admirers?—had a right to expect that Mr. Ireland's Illustration should contain something worth their attention ; and it is fair to conclude, that they were not disappointed : for a large impression was disposed of in less than three months. A second edition was printed soon afterwards.

In this performance Mr. Ireland, who is a warm, and we think, a successful advocate for the moral tendency of Hogarth's works, seems conscious that he may sometimes be thought too partial to his hero, and thus concludes the account of his life :

“ His character, and the illustrations I have attempted, are built upon a diligent investigation of his prints; if in any case it should be thought that they have biased my judgment, I can truly say that they have informed it. From them I have learnt much which I should not otherwise have known, and to inspecting them I owe many very happy hours. Considering their originality, variety, and truth, if we take from the artist all that he is said to have wanted, he will have more left than has been often the portion of man.”

The book abounds with anecdotes, which the author's long connections with men conversant with such subjects enabled him to supply. These are generally told in an easy and agreeable style, and if not always precisely appropriate to the print described, have a general relation to the subject. For such of the prints as had not an inscription engraved under them, he has sometimes given a quotation, but more generally written a motto himself. Some of these, particularly those of the Strollers, Evening, and the Stage Coach, are easy in the versification, and pointed in the allusion.

The next publication which we have noticed with Mr. Ireland's name, was the supplementary volume, compiled from Hogarth's papers. To this is prefixed the following advertisement :

“ The manuscripts from which the principal parts of this volume are compiled, were written by the late Mr. Hogarth : had he lived a little longer, he would have methodised and published them.

them. On his decease they devolved to his widow, who kept them sacred and entire until her death, when they became the property of Mrs. Lewis, of Chiswick, by whose kindness and friendship they are now in my possession.* They comprehend Hogarth's life and course of study, correspondence, political quarrels, &c.; the manuscript of the *Analysis of Beauty*, corrected by the author, with many remarks omitted in the printed copy; sundry memoranda relative to the subjects of his satire in many of his prints," &c. &c.

This volume is of a size similar to the two which preceded it; but the engravings are on a larger scale. It contains many curious particulars relative to the arts and other circumstances, and Hogarth has related them in a style that we did not think he could have written; it proves, that though a pen was not his proper instrument, he knew how to use it in a manner that expressed his ideas with clearness and precision: indeed we have always thought that where a man of a strong mind is perfect master of his subject,

appropriate

* Of the following dedication, which Hogarth intended for this work, Mr. Ireland has given a fac simile, copied from his hand writing.

THE NO DEDICATION.

Not dedicated to any Prince in Christendom, for fear it might be thought an idle piece of arrogance. Not dedicated to any man of quality, for fear it might be thought too assuming. Not dedicated to any learned body of men, as either of the Universities, or the Royal Society, for fear it might be thought an uncommon piece of vanity. Not dedicated to any one particular friend, for fear of offending another.

Therefore, dedicated to nobody; but if for once we may suppose nobody to be every body, as every body is often said to be nobody, then is this work dedicated to every body,

By their most humble and devoted

W. HOGARTH.

appropriate words will offer themselves. One little specimen of his versification we cannot resist transcribing. It is thus stated in the volume :

“ His line of beauty drew him into so many disputes, that he at length determined to write a book, explain his system, and silence his adversaries. When his intentions were known, those who acknowledged his claim to superiority as an artist, were apprehensive that by thus wandering out of his sphere, and commencing *author*, he would lessen his reputation ; those who ridiculed his system, presumed that he would overturn it ; and the few who envied and hated the man, rejoiced in sure and certain hope that he would write himself into disgrace. All this he laughed at ; and, in the following little epigram, whimsically enough describes his own feelings :

“ What ! a book, and by Hogarth !—Then twenty to ten,

“ All he’s gain’d by the pencil he’ll lose by the pen.

“ Perhaps it may be so—howe’er, miss or hit,

“ He will publish—*here goes—it’s double or quit.*”

From being of the same name, he was very frequently mistaken for the late Mr. Samuel Ireland, to whom he was not related. To prevent future misapprehension, the following advertisement is prefixed to this volume :

“ *It may be proper to state, that neither the two volumes published in 1791, nor this supplement, have any connection with the Graphic Illustrations, which, being written by Mr. Samuel Ireland, proprietor of the Shakspeare Papers, have given rise to many strange mistakes, and been erroneously ascribed to John Ireland.*”

Mr. Ireland’s adherence to his favourite artist has not been confined to explaining his prints ; he has also published a spirited copy from a very interesting engraving of Hogarth’s, which is in his own possession. It is entitled, “ *Enthusiasm Delineated,*” and
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the artist, after taking off two impressions, altered his copper-plate to "The Medley." The object of the satire is thus described in Hogarth's hand-writing, under the original print :

"The intention of this print is to give a lineal representation of the strange effects resulting from literal and low conceptions of sacred beings, as also of the idolatrous tendency of pictures in churches, and prints in religious books."

The author's portrait, engraved from a picture painted by his friend Mortimer, and prefixed to his first volume of Hogarth, is a striking resemblance. If we were to describe the original in the manner of Mr. Ames, and some other illustrators of portraits, we should add; that he is tall, thin, pale-faced, and sickly in his appearance; and, indeed, his health, for the last two or three years, has been in so precarious a state, as to induce him to remove from Poet's Corner to Hans Place, Knightsbridge, where we sincerely hope the air will so far restore him as to enable him to finish some remarks on the arts, &c. which, we are informed, he is now preparing for the press.

SIR WILLIAM BEECHER.

IN a catalogue of the names of men who have deviated from the path in which their parents intended them to tread, we should find many of those great characters who have most distinguished themselves in their particular professions. Petitot was intended for a jeweller, but preferred painting a miniature to setting it. John Wenix was placed with a printer,

whose paper he covered with figures of men and animals, instead of the letters of the alphabet; and it was determined to make Handel a civilian. But in these, and numerous other instances, Nature vindicated her own rights, and her favourites being led into the path which was congenial to their talents, attained their proper places in the temple of fame.

To the list of men, who, having a consciousness of their own peculiar powers, have disdained and conquered every difficulty that opposed their exerting them, we must add the subject of this little memoir, who was

“Early foredoom’d his father’s soul to cross,
And paint a picture when he should engross:”

For Sir William Beechey, who was born at Burford, in Oxfordshire, in the year 1753, was, at the proper age, placed under an eminent conveyancer at Stow, in Gloucestershire; but a volatile flow of spirits, a bright and active imagination, and a mind eagerly bent upon enquiry, was not to be chained to the desk of a provincial conveyancer long enough to acquire any deep insight into that abstruse profession.

He had heard much of London—he wished to see London—and to London he accordingly came. Disagreeable as the quirks and quiddities of the law were to his feelings, he was compelled to continue in the practice, and accordingly articulated himself for a given period to a gentleman who died before the expiration of his time, when he made a second engagement with a Mr. Owen, of Tooke’s-court. But his talents were not calculated for the contemplation of
Coke’s

Coke's Institutes, nor were his eyes formed for poring over the tiresome repetitions of musty parchments. There are few studies more ungenial to a young man of lively imagination than the law. An active and ingenuous mind revolts at the cramp phraseology and tedious repetitions with which it is embarrassed. Considering this circumstance, it is fortunate for the arts that he accidentally became acquainted with several students of the Royal Academy. The objects in which they were engaged attracted and enchanted him: by the splendid assemblage of colours which they mixed upon the *palette*, and transferred to the canvass, his eye was delighted, and, by the field thus opened to him, his disgust at his original profession encreased, and he determined to change his pen for the pencil, his ink-stand for the colour-box, and his desk for the easel; eagerly embarked in a new pursuit, and exerted every effort to acquire the rudiments of that art in which he has since so eminently distinguished himself.

So powerful was his new attachment, that he did not wait till the expiration of his agreement, but prevailed upon Mr. Owen to accept of a young man whom he had procured to supply his place, as a substitute for the remaining time of his articles, and in 1772 he commenced a student in the Royal Academy.

His prospects were now changed, and he had a new world teeming with wonders opened before him: he had discernment enough to see that the works of Sir Joshua Reynolds were the best models, and therefore

fore he studied and occasionally copied them. But though they were the earliest objects of his imitation, he did not long confine himself to shadows, but ascended to realities, and, in the place of copying portraits, studied and imitated originals. During this period, labouring up hill to attain that rank in his profession which he must have felt he had a right to, he inevitably experienced many difficulties under which a common mind would have sunk. But the ardour and energy of his spirit supported him; for happily, with the ambition of attaining reputation, he possessed the power of deserving it, and surmounted every obstacle. He has ever since been progressively improving, and from this period his history must be sought for in his performances.

Dr. Strachey, Archdeacon of Suffolk, and his family; the Chevalier Ruspini and his family; and the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland, were among his earliest works. The Ruspini family was, we believe, the first picture that he exhibited at Somerset House.

From London he went to Norwich, where he continued four or five years; and here he began with painting small conversation pieces, in the manner which was first practised by Hogarth, and afterwards by Zoffany. Two large frames of these, containing twelve or thirteen portraits in each, he sent to London for the exhibition, but as they were not admissible in the Royal Academy, from their occupying too much space, they were transferred to Vanderghucht's rooms at the Lyceum, where they were

much noticed, and considered as giving great promise of future excellence.

At Norwich he first began to paint as large as life, and was much encouraged, for many of the portraits then painted by him are in a very superior style.

On his return to London, he took the house in Brook-street which had formerly been the residence of Vandergucht, and was soon gratified by general notice and celebrity. He afterwards removed to Hill-street, Berkley-square, at which place, as well as at his present residence in George-street, Hannover-square, his talents have procured him the notice and protection of many people of the first rank; and among many other portraits of acknowledged merit and great celebrity, he painted the Honourable Charles Herbert, the last Duke of Montagu, Lord Macartney, the Earl of Morton, half lengths of Lord Francis Osborn and his Lady for Lord Auckland; Sir William and Lady Young, Lord Cornwallis, Lord St. Vincent, Captain Foley, Captain Darby, Lord Carnarvon, &c.

The style in which some of these were painted introduced him to the notice of the Royal Family, and he was appointed portrait painter to the Queen, and, by the King's command, painted a whole length portrait of her Majesty, and portraits of all the Princesses, two of which appeared in the exhibition of 1797.

His Majesty's opinion of his powers is exemplified by his entrusting to his pencil a subject of so much difficulty as the grand picture representing the
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the King at a review, attended by the Prince, the Duke of York, &c. a work which required such talents as do not fall to the lot of many to execute it, and which, had Sir William never painted any other picture, is delineated in a manner that would have given him very high rank in his profession. It has not the air of a modern work, but combines with the fidelity of portrait, the interest and expression of an historical picture: two excellencies that have been seldom united.

It is at present in the Queen's Presence Chamber at Windsor Castle, but intended, with a number of other pictures by the same artist, to form the decorations of a great room in the house which the King is now building at Kew.

Portraits of the Prince of Wales and several of the Princesses are at Frogmore Lodge. In a portrait of the Princess of Wales, which Sir William has lately painted, he has displayed an uncommon portion of taste and talent.

Many of our readers must recollect the portrait of Miss de Visme, in a straw hat, exhibited several years ago, and remarkable for ease and elegance. Had it been painted in France or Holland, it would have been called *the straw hat*, as a picture by Téniers was denominated *the red bonnet*. The portrait of Mr. John Trotter, exhibited two or three years since, was, in point of force and nature, entitled to rank very high. The portrait of a Miss Rudd, of Yorkshire, which was in the exhibition about the same time, deserved and obtained great praise. Miss
Lushington,

Lushington, in the character of a Bacchante, was painted with uncommon spirit and great science. He is now engaged in painting a full length portrait of Alderman Boydell, with appropriate allegorical figures, for the council chamber, Guildhall.

But considering the number of admirable pictures which this artist has painted, to point out any in particular, may be deemed rather invidious to such as are not mentioned. To those who can appreciate their various merits, it would be unnecessary; to those who cannot, it might be uninteresting.

A portrait of Lady Beechey, with the youngest of eight children in her arms, we cannot omit noticing, as a strong example of the manner in which an artist succeeds when he paints *con amore*; in point of drawing, resemblance, colouring and character, it is a *chef d'œuvre*. If it came into our plan to enumerate this lady's performances in miniature, (for she also is an artist, and a good one,) many admirable little pictures might be added to this list.

With respect to his general merit as an artist, we honour him for his originality, as it shews a noble daring, and gives him a much greater chance of attaining excellence in his profession than those have who servilely walk in the track marked out by others. The surest way to imitate the finest painters is by copying from the same models which they did. Is it necessary to say I mean copying from nature? but those who look at it through the medium of other artists, will be more likely to obscure than to clear their ideas: they are in the state of a man who sees
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an object through a mist; besides, whoever follows must remain behind.

The dignified and energetic language of Johnson generated a swarm of wretched inflated imitators; the fascinating pictures of Sir Joshua Reynolds have had the same effect upon our painters, many of whom have enrolled themselves as his imitators and followers, and in their admiration of his excellencies servilely copied his errors. This has produced pictures with red trees, green clouds, and yellow water. When he was little more than thirty-six years of age, and painting was at a very low ebb, he was the first artist of his day; and though he then painted pictures which his future pupils would have blushed to have owned when they were only twenty years of age, yet in the last year of his life he continued as superior to his followers as he was at first. Having set out at the head of his profession, he continued the leader until his death. His imitators seemed to aspire at nothing higher than being the first in his train; for though, in all other professions, men overtake each other, in painting they do not seem to attempt it, nor would they succeed if they did, while they thus make the *manners* of painters their only models. Beechey had an higher aim; he made nature his model, and, instead of being the follower of the great artists who had lived before him, endeavoured to qualify himself for being their competitor. In this he was probably encouraged by a man who, soon after Beechey's making the arts his pursuit, had taste enough to discern his talents, and judg-

ment enough to advise him in their application. We mean Paul Sandby, who was his very early friend, and whom he still speaks of by the friendly and familiar appellation of Father Paul.

It was fortunate for Alexander Pope that he was very early honoured with the friendship of men who were qualified to point out to him the shortest path to eminence; and it was to the honour of this great poet that he had the good sense to follow their advice. One of them, Walsh, strongly advised him to aim at correctness in his versification, which, as he told him, the English poets had hitherto neglected, and which was therefore left to him as a basis of fame.

We do not know that Mr. Sandby gave the same advice to his young friend, but certain it is, that one great excellence of Sir William's portraits is the attention which he pays to the hands and arms, which are drawn and coloured with as much attention to nature and resemblance of the original as the face. These, and indeed all other parts of the picture except the head, some of our present artists consider as so subordinate, that they professedly leave them in a slovenly and unfinished state, *as if some of nature's journeymen had made them, and not made them well, they imitate humanity so abominably.* This is vile, and must originate in either ignorance, avarice, or affectation. If in ignorance, it would be to their honour to learn to paint hands and arms and drapery as well as heads: if in avarice, it will lead the world to suspect that what has been said of another art may be applied to painting; *that the ancients began by making*
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it a science, and the moderns began by making it a trade; but what is worst of all, such practice will be likely to make it a trade they cannot live by. But we believe it has frequently its root in affectation; and the defence set up is, that it was sometimes the practice of Sir Joshua Reynolds. This is somewhat like the courtiers of Alexander the Great wearing artificial pads on their right shoulders, because

“ Great Ammon’s son one shoulder had too high.”

Of this affectation Sir William never had any portion; his men are painted as they appear, and he does not give the mere map of the face, but the spirit and character of the original. In his female figures he has been generally happy; they are usually strong likenesses, with a natural and easy air, and he has been fortunate in having had for the subjects of his pencil several very beautiful women. This is the most delightful province of painting; and to the art which can soothe the anguish of absence, by presenting, as in a mirror, the features that are most dear to us, the lover and the friend are much indebted. This power is peculiar to painting, for,

“ If torn from all we hold most dear,
 The tedious moments slowly roll;
 Can music’s tenderest accents cheer
 The silent grief that melts the soul?
 Or, can the poet’s boasted art
 The healing balm of peace impart?
 Ah, no! ’tis only painting’s power
 Can soothe the sad, the painful hour;
 Can bring the much-lov’d form to view,
 In features exquisitely true.”

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From Sir William's pictures we have had several prints, and several more are engraving and to be engraved. Ward has made an excellent mezzotinto from the royal family at a review. There is a very good print of his portrait of the Marquis Cornwallis, and also of children relieving a beggar, in which are introduced the portraits of some of his children.

Many of his performances have been most inimitably copied in enamel by Bone, and some very good copies in miniature have been made by Lady Beechey.

He was elected an associate in the year 1793, and a royal academician in 1797, on the death of Mr. Hodges. He has since that time received the honour of knighthood; and this becomes a more peculiar distinction from his being the only member of the Royal Academy upon whom it has been conferred since the death of Sir Joshua Reynolds.

DUKE OF PORTLAND.

THE life of this noble Peer is as fruitful in subjects of political reflection as that of any of his contemporaries.

William Henry Cavendish, Duke of Portland, was born in the year 1736. He was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, where, in 1756, he recited publicly the English verses with the most deserved approbation. Having finished his education at that learned seminary, he went on his travels; and soon after he came back we find him, then Marquis of Titchfield, returned

returned to the first parliament of this King's reign, for Weobly, a borough which was then and still is under the influence of his family.

For this place, however, he did not sit long, being called up to the House of Peers in 1762, on the death of his father. The estate to which he succeeded was rather confined, as twelve thousand pounds a year was settled on his mother, the Duchess Dowager of Portland, who died a few years since.

The early period of this nobleman's life was marked with no very prominent feature, but he soon began to act a very conspicuous part. As soon as he was settled in the House of Peers, he sided with the Opposition of the day. In 1763 his name is found among the minority, against that very obnoxious bill which laid a duty on cyder, and he joined with the Duke of Grafton in signing a protest, as he did also the next session, on the question to vote away the privilege hitherto claimed by members of parliament in matter of libel.

His Grace having connected himself with the late Marquis of Rockingham, and that truly patriotic band who opposed Lord Bute and George Grenville's administrations; in 1765, when his friend came into power, he was appointed Lord Chamberlain of the King's household, which he did not enjoy long, for when they retired, he went out of place with them.

The year 1768 is memorable for some of the most severe conflicts, at the general election, that were, perhaps, ever remembered; and none were supported with greater spirit, or perhaps greater expence than

that for the county of Cumberland, when the present Sir Henry Fletcher and the late Mr. Curwen stood candidates, under the patronage of the Duke, against the late Earl of Lonsdale and his friend. As this election was attended with some very peculiar circumstances, we shall state the particulars, which are really curious, at some length.

His Grace having been a steady supporter of the interests and liberties of the people and the honour of the nation, in all the great questions which have been agitated in parliament, during the present reign; this uniformity of conduct and principle brought upon him a peculiar severity from some of the late ministry. They made a grant in 1767 of his estate in Cumberland to Sir James Lowther, to serve the purpose of this election, in hopes thereby of preventing the two friends to the Duke, and consequently enemies to the ministry, from being elected members for that county at the approaching general election. The fact was alarming, and the design was so manifest, that the whole county resented it, and returned the Duke of Portland's friends. The following is a short recital of the case.

Towards the end of December 1767, a grant was made from the Treasury to Sir James Lowther of an extensive and valuable estate, known by the name of Inglewood Forest, being part of the manor of Penrith, in Cumberland, and also a grant of the soccage of Carlisle, which had been given by King William the Third to the first Duke of Portland, and which had remained in the possession of that family ever since,

since. The nature of the whole proceeding, the vindictive subtilty of its original suggestion, the refined and quibbling explications of the common rules of prescriptive possession, and the technical wiles of legal chicanery made use of throughout, to bar the Duke from supporting his title and exposing the illegality and injustice of the whole business, seem so exactly correspondent with that insidious malevolence, and dangerous plausibility, which so peculiarly mark the character of a person who has always been considered as the instrument and agent of a late departed junto, that there remains scarcely a doubt of his being, if not the first adviser, at least the secret manager and director of this glaring act of oppression : nor was Lord North (who had been appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer a little time before) in his turn, backward in contributing his aid to the measure. The Board of Treasury had referred to the Surveyor General of Crown Lands, Sir James Lowther's memorial, praying a lease of the premises in question. The Surveyor General returned in his report to that board (though no lawyer) a positive opinion on a very intricate point of law, and *of himself* declared (if we can possibly believe that this officer could hazard such a declaration, without previous consultation with, and private directions from superior authority) that the premises *were not comprised* in the grant from King William to the Duke of Portland, but were still vested in the crown ; and *recommended* to their Lordships to grant the lease demanded, at a very inconsiderable reserved rent. The Duke's agents were refused permission to

examine the rolls and authorities on which the Surveyor had founded his report. On application to the Treasury, however, for an order to the Surveyor for such permission, the Duke received a promise of such order; he even paid the usual fees for drawing it up, yet he could never obtain it. At the Treasury, he was told it had been sent to the Surveyor's office; at the Surveyor's office the receipt of it was denied; yet the Surveyor had before that time actually received it, and in answer to it had remonstrated to the Treasury against allowing the inspection of any writings which related to a dispute of the rights of the crown. But these circumstances were not known to the Duke till some time afterwards. The report of the Surveyor, and every step of the Treasury, was enveloped in that dark and silent secrecy which generally accompanies the conscious perpetration of deliberate injustice.

In the interim, the Duke's agents, in obedience to a letter from the Treasury, received in October, by which he was directed to prepare his title, and which contained a promise that nothing should be decided concerning it, till such title had been stated, and maturely considered, were busily employed in their researches through a train of grants, precedents, and other records; and were in daily expectation of the promised permission to inspect the Surveyor's papers, in order to complete it; but while they were deeply engaged in this laborious investigation, and expecting the above-mentioned order, the Duke, to his infinite surprise, received another letter from the Treasury,
dated

dated the 22d of December, informing him, *that the grants were passed and the leases signed.* This was only ten days after Lord North had taken his seat at the Treasury Board. A *caveat* had before been entered at the Exchequer, to stop the progress of the grant; and when, in consequence of this *caveat*, the same Lord North was prayed to withhold affixing the Exchequer seal, the only ceremonial wanting to give it validity, he replied, that he had received directions to affix the seal instantaneously, and that as *Chancellor of the Exchequer* he was *ex officio compelled* to obey all orders from the Treasury. The Treasury had before declared themselves *compelled* to proceed according to the Surveyor's report, and the Surveyor's report was, in all probability, the result of private instruction. Thus in a matter of property, which in its consequences might affect the rights of the whole kingdom, a frivolous pretence of *official compulsion* was now first made, in defiance of the settled rules of equity and justice, and in violation of all the sacred ties of faith and confidence amongst mankind.

On the 20th of November 1771 this great cause was tried before the Barons of the Exchequer, in Westminster Hall, whether the grant to Sir James Lowther, of the forest of Inglewood, was legal? Mr. Wedderburne (now Earl of Rosslyn) was principal counsel for the ministry, and Mr. Thurlow (now Lord Thurlow) was principal counsel for the Duke of Portland: when, after a long trial, the grant was found invalid, upon the statute of the first of Anne, which says, "That upon every grant, &c. there shall
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“ be a reserved rent, not less than the third part of
 “ the clear yearly value of such manor, &c. as shall be
 “ contained in such grant.” The quit rent reserved
 in this grant was only thirteen shillings and four-
 pence for the whole forest of Inglewood, which was
 adjudged by the Court to be inadequate to the third
 proportion.

The Duke continued, with his usual ardour, consistency and spirit, in opposing the Ministers upon every measure which tended to abridge the liberties of the people, or to diminish the limits of the empire. This conduct secured to him, at the time, great popularity of character, the esteem of every friend to the constitution, and the applause of every admirer of public virtue.

In 1766 he married Lady Dorothy Cavendish, sister to the Duke of Devonshire, a lady whose exemplary virtues would have graced the most exalted station. This connection bound him closer to the interests of Lord Rockingham's party; and he continued to fight the battles of his country against the most disgraceful administration with which Great Britain was, perhaps, ever scourged, until the ever-memorable motion of General Conway, which compelled Lord North to resign.

In the new arrangements the Duke was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and immediately set out for that kingdom. Here he had the heart-felt satisfaction of being the instrument which granted to that nation complete independence from the power of the Parliament of England. When he went in state to the

the House of Peers for this purpose, it was with difficulty the populace could be restrained from taking his horses from the coach, and drawing him to the House.

Upon the Marquis of Lansdown's coming into power, the Duke of Portland was recalled, after an administration of somewhat more than three months. On the death of the illustrious leader of the Whig party, the Marquis of Rockingham, it became necessary for them to select a new political chief: some of them turned their eyes towards Earl Fitzwilliam, nephew of the Marquis of Rockingham; but Mr. Fox, who was the most active man of the party, espoused the cause of the Duke of Portland. He was also recommended by the Privy Council to the King, as the proper person to succeed to the Treasury; but the King thought proper to prefer Lord Shelburne. The coalition which took place soon after the Duke's return from Ireland, however, displaced their opponents, and seated the noble Duke at the head of the Treasury Board. But here his Grace could not hope to remain long. The King was by no means friendly to them, and the friends of Lord North were detested by the patriotic part of the nation, for the share they had taken in the American war. The cabinet which they formed was of so heterogeneous a nature, that politicians of no singular foresight were enabled to predict its speedy dissolution. On the one side were the Duke, Lord Keppel, Lord John Cavendish, and Mr. Fox; men who had hitherto invariably

variably supported the liberties of the people; and on the other, Lords Carlisle, Stormont, and North, whose talents had been uniformly devoted to the views of Government. Yet it is but justice to the former to say, that they supported their principles, even when in place, with great resolution, and that the latter deserted theirs.

The injudicious attempt of the coalition ministry to pass the bill for regulating our East-India possessions, is an event well known. The framers of that measure have been severely censured for that part of it which took the patronage out of the hands of the crown; but when it is remembered that a vote had passed the House of Commons, supported by all the country gentlemen, "*that the influence of the crown had increased, was increasing, and ought to be diminished,*" their conduct will admit of a justification. However, the event was fatal to them; they were displaced, and the people soon after manifested their opinion of the coalition, by not electing a great number of their friends at the general election.

We now, therefore, find the Duke once more in opposition, when his party adopted those half measures, which always tend to ruin the persons who employ them. Mr. Pitt had worked himself into administration in a way not very constitutional. His opponents had a decided majority in the House of Commons; but instead of adopting energetic measures, they had contented themselves with unavailing votes, till it suited the Minister to dissolve the Parliament;

ment; and a very great portion of the Duke's friends in the House of Commons were unable to get themselves re-elected.

The difficulties Mr. Pitt had to struggle with when he came into administration, with the House of Commons against him, are well known; but by the dissolution of Parliament those difficulties all vanished. During this contest an attempt was made by some well meaning men to form another coalition between Mr. Pitt and the Duke of Portland. In this negotiation his Grace acted a very conspicuous part; and from several letters written by him on that subject, we find him objecting to the terms on which Mr. Pitt came into power, and refusing all terms of conciliation, unless Mr. Pitt would resign his place, and come in again on equal terms with the Duke and his friends; but this proposal neither suiting the views of the Monarch or the Minister, was rejected. The declaration the Duke then made, and the assurances he gave, that he would never sit in a cabinet with Mr. Pitt, were as clear and as explicit as possible.

His Grace continued steady in his opposition for some years: but in 1792 the world was much surprised to see him elected Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and that without any opposition from the Minister.

The affairs of France had certainly made a very great impression on the minds of many in this country, particularly those of the highest rank. They saw, or at least thought they saw, in the abolition of rank and titles in that country, the prospect of very un-

pleasant events in this ; and while impressed with those ideas, no man could be surprised to see those who possessed such marks of distinction, and who naturally placed a high value upon them, rallying round the Government, which alone could protect them, and which they were made to believe required all the support that every branch of the aristocracy could give.

The Duke of Portland's character in private life is of the most amiable kind, and he supported, for a course of years, the splendor of his dignity with a very moderate fortune ; but his household expences, and those incurred by the election for Cumberland, involved him in difficulties, from which the jointure which fell to him at the death of his mother has, however, greatly disencumbered him,

His Grace has been appointed Secretary of State, Lord Lieutenant of the county of Nottingham, has procured the lieutenancy of the county of Middlesex for his son, the Marquis of Titchfield, and has also been remunerated with the renewal of a very valuable lease from the crown, of lands situated in the parish of Marybone.

SIR JOSEPH BANKS.

SIR JOSEPH BANKS is said to be descended from a noble Swedish family. His paternal grandfather was the first of his ancestors in that line who settled in England, and acquired an ample fortune by the reputable practice of an honourable profession.

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His father, a very estimable country gentleman, resided chiefly on his estate in Lincolnshire.

Sir Joseph was born in that county about the year 1740. After a suitable preparatory education at Eton school, he was sent to the university of Oxford. In every branch of liberal knowledge he made distinguished proficiency, but the study of natural history engaged his fondest attachment; and he conceived, at a very early age, an ardent ambition to promote the advancement of this great science, by those eminent exertions of which united genius, fortune, and industry, are alone capable.

Genius usually receives its early bias from some circumstances in the general character of the age, and some in the particular condition of the person to whom it belongs. Natural history was succeeding, about the time when Sir Joseph Banks began conspicuously to cultivate it, to much of that transcendent popularity among the learned which natural philosophy had, for the last hundred years, almost exclusively possessed. Linnæus had produced for it an arrangement and a nomenclature, forming perhaps one of the most ingenious and elaborate philosophical systems which the world had seen. His pupils were travelling as naturalists into every region of the earth, with an ardour not less zealous and intrepid than if they had gone to propagate a new religion, or to rifle the treasures of Mexican monarchs. In France, De Buffon was already beginning to exhibit a combination of natural history, eloquence, and fashionable curiosity, which, though not yet produced into general fame,

fame, was, in a considerable degree, the admiration of a court and a great city, and was sufficiently known in England to have gained the attention of Sir Joseph Banks. Collections of the specimens of natural history had been formed in England, in different places, and at a great expence, which, while they were eagerly consulted by every man of science, were praised with a grateful warmth that might well encourage young men of fortune to seek the same approbation by the same means. The curiosity of naturalists was turned towards the New World, as containing ample treasures, much less known and more peculiar than those which remained to be explored in the Old. Barbadoes, Jamaica, Virginia, had been illustrated by the labours of English naturalists, with a success sufficient to excite others to rival, by similar undertakings, the praise which these had gained. A new reign had auspiciously commenced, in which it seemed probable that science, learning, and, in particular, natural history and distant discovery, would be patronized at court. To go the narrow round of the common fashionable tour, could appear but miserable trifling to a young man whose mind glowed with a love of ingenuous enterprize, and of the knowledge of nature: *tædet harum quotidianarum formarum*. To explore scenes till now unknown; to contemplate the beauty and majesty of nature where these had not yet been violated by art; to cultivate the most manly qualities of the human character in the true school for intrepidity, presence of mind, enlargement of imagination, and hardy vigour of bodily constitution;

stitution;—this was a plan of travel worthy of the desire and the contrivance of virtue and genius.

With views probably in some such manner suggested to his mind, Sir Joseph Banks, upon leaving the university of Oxford, in 1763, went on a voyage across the Atlantic, to the coasts of Newfoundland and Labradore. In this voyage, which was attended with considerable danger and many difficulties, he made his first essay in the service of science, and collected many valuable objects of natural history, which now adorn his cabinet.

The spirit of naval discovery so eminently encouraged since the commencement of the present reign, soon presented a new opportunity, by which this gentleman was engaged in a more distant and laborious voyage than that in which he made his first adventure of scientific enquiry.

Anson's voyage was a great military enterprize, intended to ruin the Spanish settlements on the coasts of South America, and to bring away the spoils of their trade. It failed of accomplishing its primary objects, but suggested new schemes for their future accomplishment. From the time in which the events of that voyage became known in England, the attentions of the British Nation and Government were turned towards the Pacific Ocean, with views at once of political aggrandizement and of useful scientific discovery. It was late before the Spaniards took a part in the war of 1756; and peace was concluded before the British fleets had occasion to pursue the Spanish trade into the South Seas. But that peace

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afforded opportunity for reviving the schemes suggested by Anson. A settlement was attempted on Falkland's Islands; and voyagers were sent to explore whether there might not be a great continent stretching away toward the southern pole. In the years 1764, 1765, and 1766, Commodore Byron, with the ships the *Dolphin* and the *Tamar*, accomplished a voyage round the globe, in the course of which he advanced to a comparatively high southern latitude, and opened an interesting path for farther discovery. The account of his voyage served only to kindle new curiosity, and to encourage new hopes. Within little more than a month after his return, Captain Wallis was sent out in the *Dolphin*, to prosecute the discoveries which Byron had begun. Wallis, after greatly extending the track of discovery in the South Seas, returned safe to England in 1768. Captain Carteret, who had been sent out in the *Swallow* sloop to accompany Wallis, was separated from him in the course of the voyage, encountered many hardships, made new discoveries in higher latitudes, and arrived not in England till the month of March 1769. Immediately after the return of Wallis, it was resolved to send out Lieutenant Cook, both to pursue still farther the discoveries which had been already made in the South Seas, and, for the benefit of astronomy, to observe, in the latitude of Otaheite, an expected transit of Venus over the Sun. In this voyage Sir Joseph Banks resolved to sail with Cook. His liberal spirit and generous curiosity were regarded with admiration; and every convenience from the Govern-

ment was readily supplied to render the circumstances of the voyage as little unpleasant to him as possible.

Far, however, from soliciting any accommodation that might occasion expence to Government, he was ready to contribute largely out of his own private fortune towards the general purposes of the expedition. He engaged as his director in natural history, during the voyage, and as the companion of his researches, Dr. Solander, of the British Museum, a Swedish gentleman, whose great scientific merit had justly recommended to patronage in England. He took with him also two draughtsmen, one to delineate views and figures, the other to paint subjects of natural history. A secretary and four servants formed the rest of his suite. Mr. Banks took care to provide, likewise, the necessary instruments for his intended observations, with conveniences for preserving such specimens as he might collect of natural or artificial objects, and with stores to be distributed in the remote isles he was going to visit, for the improvement of the condition of savage life.

On the 26th of August 1768, the Endeavour sailed from Plymouth on this great expedition. Lieutenant Cook was commander: but Sir Joseph Banks went in circumstances which made it improbable that he should be subjected to any disagreeable controul. No unfortunate accidents occurred in the early course of the voyage: Even in the passage to Madeira, Sir Joseph and his companion discovered many marine animals hitherto undescribed by any naturalist. At Madeira, and as they sailed on to Rio Janeiro, their

vigilance was still eagerly awake, and was sufficiently gratified by new observations and specimens in natural history. The jealousy of the Portuguese greatly disappointed their curiosity, by forbidding those researches at Rio Janciro, of the fruits of which they had conceived very high hopes. On the coast of Terra del Fuego, in an excursion to view the natural productions of the country, Sir Joseph Banks and Dr. Solander nearly perished by a storm of snow. With extreme difficulty, with the loss of three of the persons who had accompanied them, and after passing a night on land amidst the storm, in worse than the agonies of death, they at last made their way back to the beach, and returned on board.

April 12th, 1769, the Endeavour arrived at Otaheite. For three months, the voyagers continued at this and the smaller contiguous isles; refreshing themselves after their late hardships; making those astronomical observations, for the sake chiefly of which Lieutenant Cook was sent out; cultivating the friendship of the natives; laying in stores of fresh provisions; surveying, as navigators, the coasts of the different isles; collecting specimens of the natural productions peculiar to them; studying the language, manners, and arts of the islanders; and refitting the ship for the farther prosecution of the voyage.

At Otaheite, Sir Joseph Banks, by his prudence, benignity, vigilance, and spirited activity, contributed in the most essential manner to prevent dissensions and disorder, and to promote mutual harmony between the inhabitants and the English.

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On the 15th of August, 1769, the Endeavour sailed from Oteroah, the last isle of this group which they visited. On the 6th of October they descried New Zealand, which had not been seen by any former navigator but Tasman. An Otaheitean priest of the name of Tupia, who voluntarily accompanied them, acted as interpreter between them and the inhabitants on this new coast, who spoke the same language. The whole coasts of the two isles forming that which is called New Zealand, were circumnavigated and diligently surveyed: the streight between them was carefully explored: and much pains was employed to open a friendly intercourse with the inhabitants. The acquisitions in natural and artificial curiosities which Sir Joseph Banks here made, were also numerous; but though the plants and animals were less various than, for such an extent of country, might have been expected, yet the specimens were comparatively many, which were worthy of being admitted in the collection of the naturalist.

From New Zealand, they pursued their voyage to New Holland. They sailed northward along its coast to Botany Bay, which owes its name to the rich treasures of botanical objects that it afforded. New species in zoology were likewise observed on these shores. Distant excursions into the interior country disposed them to regard it as a scene that might prove exceedingly favourable for colonial settlement. The voyage was continued along the eastern coast of that great territory: and to the track adjacent was given the name of New South Wales. As they advanced, the

ship struck upon a rock, by which an opening was made in her bottom, and they were in extreme danger of sinking; but with great difficulty succeeded in getting her into the mouth of a river which they named Endeavour. Here the ship was hove down to stop the leak; but while this was doing, a considerable quantity of water was admitted, by which a part of Sir Joseph Banks's collection of specimens was entirely spoiled—and even the rest were not saved without the greatest anxiety and trouble. As the company continued to advance northward along the coast, many shells and marine productions of unknown species were gathered in occasional visits to the shore. The discovery of the kangaroo enabled them to offer an interesting addition to the natural history of quadrupeds. Besides this, no opportunity was neglected of making new astronomical observations. On the 23d of August 1770, they left this coast, and steered for New Guinea.

The rest of their voyage was through known seas, and among isles which other European navigators had before visited and described. The noxious climate of Batavia afflicted a number of them, during their necessary stay there, with severe disease. Tupia, the priest from Otaheite, died of an ague; and his boy, Tayeto, of an inflammation of the lungs. Sir Joseph Banks himself and Dr. Solander were for some time exceedingly ill. Every person belonging to the ship was sick during their stay at this place, except the sail-maker, an old man, between seventy and eighty years of age, who got drunk every day. Seven died

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at Batavia; three and twenty more, in the course of the next six weeks after the departure of the ship from that harbour. On Wednesday the 12th of June 1771, the survivors brought the vessel to anchor in the Downs, and came ashore at Deal.

Sir Joseph Banks was received in England with eager admiration. His design in undertaking the voyage; the prudence, fortitude, and vigilant activity he had evinced in the course of it; the perils he went through; the invaluable information recorded in his journals; and the specimens, before unknown, which he brought, at so much risk and expence, to enrich the science of natural history, could not but set him above most other young men of rank and fortune. At court, among men of science and literature, at home, and abroad, he was equally distinguished. A new expedition of discovery was soon after sent out, in which he at first wished to embark, though he was afterwards induced to decline it. But his directions and assistance were not withheld, so far as they could promote the success and usefulness of the voyage.

Iceland was said to contain many natural curiosities, highly worthy of the inspection of one whose love of nature had led him to circumnavigate the globe. Sir Joseph Banks therefore hired a vessel, and went, in company with his friend Dr. Solander, to visit that isle. The Hebridæ, those celebrated islets scattered along the north-west coast of Scotland, were contiguous to the track of the voyage; and these adventurous naturalists were induced to examine them.

Among other things worthy of notice, they discovered the columnar stratification of the rocks surrounding the caves of Staffa; a phenomenon till then unobserved by naturalists, but which was no sooner made known, in a description by Sir Joseph Banks, than it became famous among men of science throughout Europe. The volcanic mountain, the hot springs, the siliceous rocks, the arctic plants and animals of Iceland, with all its other native productions, were carefully surveyed in this voyage. A rich harvest of new knowledge and new specimens compensated for its toils and expence. Dr. Von Troil, if we mistake not, a Danish clergyman of great merit, was a companion in this philosophical adventure, and was thus, by the beneficence of Sir Joseph Banks, enabled to make communications to the Danish Government, of which they afterwards availed themselves for the improvement of the condition of the isle.

After his return from Iceland, Sir Joseph passed his time for some years chiefly in London, or at his seat in Lincolnshire. He associated with men of letters, and with persons of rank and fashion; corresponded with eminent naturalists and philosophers in almost every country in Europe, and even in more distant parts of the world; assisted at the meetings of the Royal Society; continually augmented his collections of the subjects of natural history, and of books and drawings illustrative of this science; and zealously endeavoured to raise his pursuits to their true dignity, by suggesting and exemplifying their application

application to many of the most important uses of life. It appeared that his time and fortune were still to be unweariedly devoted to those great purposes of scientific beneficence, in the ardent promoting of which he had distinguished his early youth.

When Sir John Pringle retired from the Presidency of the Royal Society in 1777, the best friends of that institution did not think they could promote its dignity and usefulness by any means so well, as by procuring the election of Sir Joseph Banks to fill the vacant chair. The honour was just such an one as a philosopher, who was at the same time a man of rank and fortune, might, with laudable ambition, desire. Rank and fortune, which should give leisure for the duties of this office, and should support a style of living, and an intercourse with the great sufficient to do it honour; a freedom from those cares of avarice and ambition which never fail to extinguish the love of science in the breast; eminent proficiency in all the sciences, but especially in those which are the most useful and the most industriously cultivated; at least some portion of skill in the management of mankind,—courteousness to win, dignity of manners to maintain authority, ability and ingenuous dispositions to represent the majesty, the impartiality, and the candour of SCIENCE *herself*:—these were the qualities and exterior advantages which it was to be wished that a President of the Royal Society of London should conspicuously possess. But, it cannot be denied, that, if the best judges were desired to single out him in whom there appeared the most eminent

eminent union of those qualites, they would not easily avoid fixing upon Sir Joseph Banks. It was about this period that he was promoted to the rank of Baronet.

The origin of the Society over which Sir Joseph now presided, was almost coeval with that of true natural philosophy itself. The meetings of the poets in the Arcadia at Rome, of the artists at Florence, of the grammarians and critics in the French Academy at Paris, were almost the only modern associations for the improvement of science or elegant art, previous to the institution of the ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON. The necessity for such an Institution had been sensibly felt among the learned in England, a considerable time before it was actually formed. Bacon sufficiently pointed out this necessity, when he sketched the outline of possible human knowledge, and explained in what manner that outline was to be filled up, by the accumulated observations and experiments of philosophers of different countries and succeeding ages. Cowley marked, with tolerable distinctness, a plan for such a Society. That scheme for the instruction of youth in physical knowledge which Milton proposes in his Treatise inscribed to Hartlib, had evidently its rise in his mind from the principles akin to those upon which the Royal Society was to be soon after founded. During the usurpation of Cromwell, when the liberal studies connected with theology were under discouragement and in disrepute, some men of learning, at Oxford and in London, particularly Boyle, Wilkins, and Barrow, were led to devote

devote their leisure rather to physical investigations, which they might pursue in quiet, without offending the zeal of their neighbours, or alarming the jealousy of usurpers whose power they could not overthrow. It was reserved for the æra of the restoration of Charles the Second to be that of the establishment of a Royal Society in England, for the improvement of physical and mathematical knowledge, both in its general principles, and in the immediate application of these to the uses of life.

The avowed object of the institution of this Society, was—by the joint labours of all its members, to perfect the physical and mathematical sciences—to acquire a knowledge of all the processes of art which were either kept secret by their inventors at home, or, though public, peculiar to foreign countries and unknown in England—to procure accurate descriptions of the objects and changes in nature—and, by all these means, to enlarge as much as possible the range of human intelligence, and to exalt the dignity and happiness of civil life. The institution had its rise from the joint endeavours of some men of learning and a few men of rank. But, in its formal establishment, they earnestly invited persons of all employments and condition, free from moral dishonour, to associate with them in its pursuits, and to bring each his peculiar knowledge, and the fruits of his experiments, observations, and enquiries, into that common fund of art and science, which was destined for the general benefit, first of Englishmen, and then of all mankind.

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Charles the Second was not merely its nominal founder and patron, but one of its most zealous and active members. Historians have generally overlooked, or at least but slightly noticed, this part of Charles's character. Yet he performed many experiments himself; he suggested and directed others; he did not trifle in philosophy, like an idle or weak-minded virtuoso, but earnestly directed his experiments to the best uses in the naval and military arts, and to other valuable purposes. Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, was likewise one of the members of this Society, at the time of its institution. A part of that money which satire has represented him as having wasted on vain projects of alchemy, was in truth expended upon rational and beneficial experiments for the advancement of true philosophy.

The views of the founders of the Royal Society were indeed grand, and their exertions great and various, beyond those of any other association of philosophers the world ever beheld. They eagerly received the communications of their fellows and correspondents. They considered what were the desiderata in the different branches of art and science, and instituted experiments, and set on foot enquiries that they might be supplied. Some of their series of experiments were performed in the presence of the whole Society at its ordinary meetings; some were entrusted to special committees; others were zealously undertaken by particular individuals. Their enquiries were extended, with the aid of the Government, to all parts of the world. They earnestly purchased

chased some of the secrets of art, of which the communication was not to be otherwise obtained. They strove to procure faithful descriptions of whatever manipulations of art had not, though in common practice, been as yet clearly explained. All the phenomena of Nature engaged their eager observation. In chemistry, Hooke, one of their number, discovered that theory of combustion, and of the specific differences of airs, which has been lately revived by Lavoisier and his disciples. A series of experiments uncommonly ingenious and well imagined, was performed in the presence of the Society, to evince the truth of the theory : and nothing, as it should seem, but its strong contrariety to vulgar observation, and the fashionable preference of the mechanical philosophy, could have hindered it from being then adopted as indisputable science. Several other branches of physics were, about the same time, created by their exertions : and the best improvements of agriculture, of gardening, and of all the arts of manufacture in England, are to be dated from the time when the Royal Society began to establish the necessary intercourse between science and art. The mathematical and physical researches of those great men cannot be denied to have led Newton directly to the discoveries of gravitation, of fluxions, and of the analysis of light.

In the subsequent exertions of these philosophers, there may have been an occasional diminution of that first enthusiasm. But how many of the most interesting phenomena of Nature have been registered

tered in their journals? What great improvements has any branch of art or science experienced, which have not either originated, or at least derived their chief authority, from the efforts of this society? They prosecuted the researches of Newton, till they confirmed his system by facts, in those parts of it which he had been obliged to leave unsupported but by analogy. A great number of the most important facts in natural history have been by them first observed and made known. The volumes of their transactions contain many of the best mathematical papers which the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries have produced. The physiology of both animal and vegetable life has been remarkably illustrated by their enquiries. The later researches concerning the nature and the differences of airs had their beginning among the members of this society. The greater part of the experiments and discoveries concerning electricity were made by them. Among the academies and societies of later institution throughout Europe, none has produced a series of memoirs, more truly valuable than the collection of the transactions of the Royal Society of London.

Sir Joseph Banks entered, in the year 1778, upon the duties of the office of President of this venerable institution, and it is generally admitted that he devoted himself with the most successful zeal to the faithful discharge of them. His attentions had the happy effect of procuring communications in the highest degree interesting and important, which, but for his cares, might not have been made known to the society,

society, in the first instance—and of engaging various persons of high rank and eminent abilities to solicit the honour of being received as fellows, who, under another President, might not perhaps have been equally desirous to mingle in this company of philosophers. The zeal and assiduity with which he did his duty, had a happy effect, in exciting the members in general to extraordinary diligence and activity in the proper pursuits of the society. The election to the office is annual: but the fellows thought themselves too fortunate in such a President, hastily to think of changing him when the terms of re-election returned. For the first three or four years of his Presidency, all went on in harmony, and with extraordinary advantages to science. There are few periods of not more than equal duration, since the origin of the Royal Society, in which so many valuable papers have been read at its meetings.

But, notwithstanding the zeal, assiduity, and impartiality with which Sir Joseph Banks devoted himself to the duties of his office; notwithstanding the general success of his cares; discontents began to arise against him, even among the most eminent members of the Society. A variety of complaints were industriously suggested in regard to his conduct in the Presidency. “It was said, that Science herself had never been more signally insulted than by the elevation of a mere *amateur*, to occupy the chair once filled by Newton. It was alledged, that he dishonoured the Society, by introducing into the management of its affairs the low intrigues, the un-
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“manly calumnies, the whispering artifices of a weak
 “and corrupted Court, or of a scene of wretched po-
 “litical cabal. It was affirmed that he strove, by va-
 “rious arts, to arrogate to himself exclusively the
 “power of introducing new members into the Society;
 “and by this means to fill it with ignorant and trifling
 “men of wealth and rank; while the *inventor* in art,
 “the *discoverer* in science, the *teacher of knowledge*,
 “whose lessons could confer on every understanding
 “new powers of keen and rapid intelligence, were to
 “be driven away with scorn, because they might hap-
 “pen to be schoolmasters, tradesmen, country physi-
 “cians, or persons exercising, as men of letters, an in-
 “fluence above all others the most beneficent and
 “important over the tides of human knowledge and
 “the course of public opinion. It was urged, in a tone
 “of mingled indignation and sorrow, that his hosti-
 “lity to mathematical science threatened to bring it
 “into discredit and neglect in the Society, over which
 “he was suffered to preside; and that foreigners
 “would hence be allowed to snatch from Englishmen
 “that palm of mathematical excellence, which had
 “been theirs ever since the discovery of fluxions by
 “Newton. It was sarcastically observed, that he pos-
 “sessed no scientific merits, but such as depended
 “merely on *bodily labour* and the *expenditure of money*.
 “It was said, that he affected to be the despot of the
 “Society, without having any thing of that genuine
 “superiority of science and talents, which might in-
 “deed have invested him with effective despotism.”

But, however respectable the persons from whom

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these complaints were suggested might be, however deep and general the impression which they made, though it be not unlikely that they may even descend with aggravation to posterity;—they were nevertheless EXCEEDINGLY UNJUST.

The government of the Society is, by the President and a Council, annually elected. They are, however, accountable for their official conduct to the electors: and, under certain regulations, any piece of business may be brought under the immediate cognizance of the whole Society. Sir Joseph Banks, when he devoted his time and attention to the duties of the Presidency, naturally resolved to exercise also its just constitutional powers. But he found the secretaries, who had been already some time in office, and with them others of the most assiduous and active of the old members, willing to exercise over the proceedings of the Society, an irregular authority, such as, it seemed, if tamely submitted to, would throw the Society's affairs into confusion, and reduce the President to a mere cypher. They were worthy men: and their inclination to rule was sufficiently natural; but it was evident that the President would fail in his duty, if he did not render his just authority decisively efficient.

Besides, it had been for some time commonly suggested, among philosophers on the continent, that the candid and liberal spirit of science prevailed to excess, in hindering the Royal Society of London from objecting to almost any person, however unfit, who should, with the offer of the usual pecuniary contribution,

- bution, ask admission into their fellowship. D'Alembert used gaily to ask any of his acquaintance coming to England, if they wished to become members of the Royal Society? and to intimate slightly, that, if they thought it an honour, he could easily obtain it for them. Even at home, the facility with which this honour was ordinarily granted, might seem to be fast bringing it into a certain degree of contempt. Sir Joseph Banks, therefore, with wise and zealous attention to the true interests of the Society, resolved to use every just and honourable precaution to hinder the honours of its fellowship from being, in future, too lavishly prostituted. The *first* principle which he thought proper to adopt with a view to this end was, *that all persons of fair moral character, and decent manners, who had eminently distinguished themselves by discoveries or inventions of high importance in any of those branches of art or science which it was the express object of the Society to cultivate, ought (whatever their condition in life) to be gladly received among its members.* But in the next place, he was of opinion, that, *of those who were merely lovers of art or science, and had made no remarkably ingenious contributions to their improvement, none ought to be hastily received into the Royal Society, whose rank and fortune were not such as to reflect on that Society and its pursuits a degree of new splendor, as well as to endow them with the means of promoting its views, on fit occasions, by extraordinary expence.* It will not be easy to shew, that these principles were not the best which a President of the Royal Society could adopt, for

for the maintenance of its dignity and usefulness. It is impossible to deny, that by these, in regard to the admission of new members, has the conduct of Sir Joseph Banks been ever chiefly regulated.

Another consideration, too, of still greater delicacy, had, perhaps, no small effect on the conduct of the President, in respect to the admission of new members into the Society. The spurious philosophy of the theorists, the atheists, the innovators delighting in mere change, without regard to its consequences, the self-conceited *esprits forts*, and the dreamers of extravagant impossibilities as to the coming age, was at this time, even throughout Europe, mustering its disciples, recruiting its numbers, and aspiring every where to interrupt, by their efforts, the progress of genuine science, and to disturb the order of civil life. The sagacity of Sir Joseph Banks could not but discern the rising mischief. It was his duty to preserve the Royal Society from its intrusion. He became, therefore, anxious to prevent the reception of any of the disciples of that false philosophy into the fellowship of the Society. There was, perhaps, no one service which he could perform to it, so truly important. Yet, it cannot appear surprising, that in the discharge of an office of so great delicacy, offence should have been, at times, involuntarily given, *even to men of real worth and talents.*

At length, the mutual discontents, owing to these causes, arose to such a height between the President and a number of the members of the Royal Society;

that they could not but break out into open dissension in the course of its proceedings. Dr. Hutton, a mathematician of great personal worth, and the most eminent talents, was reduced to the necessity of resigning the office of Foreign Secretary to the Society. His friends regretted that necessity, and scrupled not to ascribe it to disingenuous practices by the President.

The President's conduct in the matter was, on the other hand, justified by those who were attached to him. Every cause of mutual dissatisfaction was upon this, roused into sudden, keen, and open activity. Dr. Hutton was accused of having neglected the duties of his office. He explained and defended his conduct, and a vote of the Society fully approved his defence.

Those who were hostile to the President thought that this approbation was to them a triumph. The President could not avoid seeing that, while considered in this light, it must essentially impair the energy of his official authority. He was reduced to the necessity of either relinquishing his office in disgrace, or else obtaining such support as should effectually humble the exultation of the malcontents. On the evening of the 8th of January 1784, the resolution, "*that this Society do approve of Sir Joseph Banks for their President, and will support him,*" was moved, in a very full meeting of the Society, by Sir Joseph's friends. It was strenuously opposed by those to whom he had given cause of dissatisfaction. A long and earnest debate ensued. Dr. Horsley, the present bishop of St. Asaph, in particular, having been interrupted in a speech of great force of argument

ment and fullness of detail, and being farther exasperated by a suggestion from Lord Mulgrave, arose, and with that eloquence which true genius knows how to pour forth, when it is animated, yet not maddened by passion, intimated a threat, that he and his friends, if disrespectfully treated by the supporters of Sir Joseph Banks, might probably SECEDE, and form a rival Society.—“ Sir,” said he in concluding, “ we shall have one remedy in our power, if all others fail. If other remedies should fail, we can at last SECEDE. Sir, when the hour of secession comes, the President will be left, with his train of feeble *amateurs*, and that toy* upon the table—the GHOST of that society, in which Philosophy once reigned, and Newton presided as her minister !”—Who can produce from the pages of Demosthenes, of Tully, or of Rousseau, an effusion of eloquence more apposite to its particular purpose, or breathing a loftier tone of indignant vehemence and sublimity. Even this eloquence, however, had not power to make the Society forget how much it owed to the services of Sir Joseph Banks. The motion which had been made in his favour was, by a great majority, adopted, as the common voice of the Society.

But the candour of Sir Joseph’s mind, and perhaps also Dr. Horsley’s threats of secession, led the victorious party to avoid all provoking exultation. The minority were encouraged by this moderation

* Pointing to the mace.

of the President and his friends, to demand that Dr. Hutton should be restored to the office of Foreign Secretary. To have made this concession would have again dishonoured the President in the eyes of the Society. It was, therefore, refused. Yet, in the debate which it occasioned, it sufficiently appeared, both that Dr. Hutton had done nothing to forfeit the confidence and esteem of the Society, as their Foreign Secretary, and that it would be more convenient to have in this office, a gentleman constantly resident in London, and cordially at peace with the President. These disputes here ended : and most of those who had been concerned in them soon regretted that they had ever arisen.

The Society returned, with new zeal and unanimity, to the prosecution of their proper labours. Sir Joseph Banks could not become more warmly the friend of science than he had been before. But, forgetting every thing in the late contentions that was addressed with asperity against himself, he now took much pains to soothe, for the sake of the Society's interests, the prejudices of those who had set themselves in opposition to him ; and endeavoured not unsuccessfully, that, except the generous emulation of useful invention and discovery, no divisive sentiment should ever again be known among this company of philosophers while he was their President. Even amidst the many rival societies in the British empire, and throughout Europe, the Royal Society of London has been ever since rising in the public estimation. Its volumes of transactions, regularly
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published, have been filled with *memoirs* exhibiting the best methods of analytical and inductive investigation in almost every department of physical science, and bringing to light a multitude of discoveries of the highest importance, both as enlarging the sphere of knowledge, and as increasing the active powers of art. The names which have been within this period added to the list of its members, are, undeniably, among the most illustrious of which philosophy can boast. Foreigners find that honorary admission into this Society is open only to transcendant scientific merit. Those parts of mathematical science, upon which depends the perfecting of astronomy and navigation, the forming of canals and bridges, and the construction of mill-machinery, have been cultivated by members of the Society with a diligence and success not exceeded by either their predecessors at home, or their contemporaries abroad. The communications in anatomy, chemistry, and the physiology of animals and vegetables, are absolutely invaluable. How many precious additions to natural history, in its various branches, have they not supplied, even though delicacy may, perhaps, have rendered the President somewhat less willing to admit many papers on that which was known to be his favourite study, than on any of those parts of science to which he was supposed to be not equally partial. It will not be denied, that, since Sir Isaac Newton presided in the Royal Society, a fairer æra has not occurred in its history, than especially the latter part of the presidency of Sir Joseph Banks. Had it been an office with an income of

ten thousand pounds a year attached to it, he could not have more assiduously devoted himself to its duties.

It is not merely in presiding at its meetings, and directing the transactions of its business in the council, that Sir Joseph Banks has made himself so eminently the benefactor of the Royal Society. His house has been, for many years, a scene of hospitality and gracious kindness, inviting the common resort of men of science from all parts of the world. Every *Sunday* evening, during the time of the sessions of Parliament, and the ordinary meetings of the Royal Society, his apartments are open to his scientific friends, and to strangers of fair character, decent appearance, and gentlemanly manners, who are properly introduced to him. The friends of science of all ranks, from the highest to the lowest, which excludes not virtue and enlightened intelligence, here assemble with eagerness. The most elegant and interesting conversations take place. The discoveries, the enquiries, the new information from testimony, which every one of these friends of science is engaged upon, has accomplished; or has recently heard, are mutually communicated. Men of liberal enquiry from every country in which science is known, are occasionally to be met with in that assembly; and few things are any where done towards the improvement of art or science, of which the earliest news may not be there learned. It rarely happens, that some new curiosity, from among the specimens of nature or ingenious art, does not appear on the tables, to engage the inspection

inspection of those to whom it may suggest new and useful discovery. For the same purpose, his library and his collection of specimens are open to the use of all whose studies and manners render them not unworthy of the favour. A *catalogue* of the books illustrative of natural history, which are in this library, has been, within these few years, printed. It fills even four octavo volumes. Scarcely a book, of any use or authority in natural history, is wanting in it.*

Almost all the voyages of discovery, and the travels, with the same view, which have been undertaken within these last five-and-twenty years, by natives of England, have been more or less promoted by the encouragement and instructions of Sir Joseph Banks. The AFRICAN ASSOCIATION owes its origin in a great degree to his cares. Ledyard, Lucas, and Houghton, were by him chiefly patronised and instructed for their journies. Mr. Mungo Parke, whose travels have so considerably rectified and enlarged our knowledge of the interior parts of Africa, was sent out on his journey with Sir Joseph's approbation; was received by him with great favour, when he returned to gratify his patrons with the ingenious and interesting narrative of the dangers through which he had passed, and the observations he had made; and owes

* We observe, with much concern and regret, that, from the title-page to the end, this catalogue abounds in instances of incorrect Latinity, and in remarkable errors in bibliographical erudition. *Knight of the Bath* is, with a very gross Anglicism, translated *Balnei Equitis*!

to Sir Joseph's generous interposition much of that success with which the account of his journey has been published, and not a little of that liberal compensation which has enabled him to retire to love and competence near his native village. That the culture of the bread-fruit-tree has been successfully introduced into our West-India isles; that the colony in New South Wales has been reared to its present prosperity; that the natural history of the great territory of New Holland is continually more and more explored; that even amidst the wars which now desolate the earth, the general commerce of men of learning and science is not entirely interrupted; are so many benefits, for which the warmest gratitude of philanthropy and science is due to Sir Joseph Banks. We cannot but hope, that, ere many more years shall pass, he may have the pleasure of seeing his exertions in the African Associations crowned with complete success, by the opening all the interior parts of that vast peninsula, to geography, to commerce, and to philosophical research. Even those who have lately been entertained or instructed, whether in France, Germany, or Britain, by Labillardiere's account of D'Entrecasteaux's voyage in search of La Pérouse, owe thanks to Sir Joseph for the gratification it has given them. It was at his request, that the papers and collections of that voyage were freely restored by the British Government, into whose hands they had fallen, for the use of science in France.

Many useful institutions for advancing the arts at home have been, likewise, promoted by him. Sir

John

John Sinclair availed himself, advantageously, of the advice and encouragement of Sir Joseph Banks, when he entered upon the compilation of his statistical account of Scotland. The institution of the Board of Agriculture has had its utility greatly increased by the counsels of the President of the Royal Society. In his attentions to the improvement of the breeds of our sheep and other domesticated animals,—to the drainage of the fens of Lincolnshire, in which his estates chiefly lie,—to the amelioration of gardening and husbandry, and of the implements employed in them,—he has given many signal and happy instances of that scientific patriotism, which has long been the best benefactor of our country.

Such rewards as could be bestowed on a man of ample fortune and perfect disinterestedness, have not been withheld from the author of these services. The King, undeniably a zealous patron of all that is in science sublime and useful, and as a judge of merit, at once candid and discriminating, has honoured Sir Joseph Banks with many flattering personal attentions. As it is usual for the Princes of Germany to bestow on men of science and literature the honorary title of *Counsellor*, or *Privy Counsellor*, his Majesty has done Sir Joseph the much higher honour of introducing him, as an effective member, into his Privy Council; which is that, not of a petty principality, but of the greatest empire in the world. The honour of the knighthood of the order of the Bath has been hitherto bestowed usually on none but Peers, Princes,

Princes, or Commanders in the navy or army, distinguished by illustrious services. In the installation of Sir Joseph Banks, it was bestowed to grace science and the worth of a private gentleman. Among foreigners, the name of the President of the Royal Society is venerated. Having devoted himself to philosophy, he has never courted political importance, not even so far as to procure, as he might easily have done, a seat in Parliament. Yet, among the landholders in whose neighbourhood his estates lie, he is honoured and observed on every occasion, and especially in all their common transactions of country business, even as if he were, in the bustle of politics, their principal leader. In 1801 he was elected a member of the National Institute of France.

Sir Joseph's personal form is tall, well built, and manly, with a countenance expressive of dignity and intelligence. He has been for some years very much afflicted with the gout. In other respects, he enjoys usually good health, though now above sixty years of age. His manners are polite yet urbane; his conversation rich in instructive information, frank, engaging, unaffected, without levity, yet endowed with sufficient vivacity. It may have been, in mistake, supposed by those who knew him not, that he was merely a naturalist and a virtuoso. No error was ever farther from the truth. He possesses information upon almost every subject within the range of art or nature; and on most he exercises the discriminating and inventive powers of an originally vigorous

vigorous mind : his knowledge is not that of facts merely, or of technical terms and complex abstractions, but of science in its elementary principles, and of Nature in her happiest forms.

SIR PETER PARKER,

ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET,

IS an officer, whose advancement in his profession has been regular, steady, and uniform. The time in which he entered into the navy we have not been able to learn, nor the date of his first commission of lieutenancy ; but we find him promoted to the rank of post-captain in May 1747. He had the command of a frigate the greater part of the ensuing war, in which he shewed himself an active and vigilant officer, but had no opportunity of distinguishing himself in the manner he has since done.

Soon after the breaking out of the American war, he was promoted to the rank of Rear-Admiral ; and, in 1776, was dispatched with a squadron to co-operate with General Clinton in the attack of Charlestown. He sailed from Cork, but, from a continuance of calm and contrary winds, was near three months before he reached Cape Fear, where, having joined General Clinton, he proceeded to Charlestown, and took possession of Long Island.

On Sullivan's Island, which commanded the harbour of Charlestown, the Americans had erected a strong fortification, of twenty-two and thirty-two pounders, which was garrisoned by three hundred men.

men. This island it was resolved to attack, and every thing being arranged, Admiral Parker, in the *Bristol*, of fifty guns, with the *Experiment*, of fifty guns, the *Solebay*, *Acteon*, *Syren*, and *Sphynx* frigates, the *Thunder bomb*, and an armed ship, got under weigh, and in a short time these ships, having all (except the *Acteon*, which run aground) got springs on their cables, began a tremendous fire on the fort. At the same time, the army attacked in boats the floating batteries and armed craft moving to cover their landing.

From a quarter past eleven o'clock till half past one, the ships continued to receive an unremitting fire from the fort, when it slackened for a short time, owing to a want of ammunition ; but that being supplied, the fire was renewed, and did not cease till nine at night, when the ships were hove off, the *Bristol* and *Experiment* being left almost wrecks on the water. The quarter-deck of the *Bristol* was twice cleared of officers by the enemy's fire ; but our gallant Admiral stood with great composure and coolness, notwithstanding the slaughter around him. The troops were unable to make good their landing ; but this piece of gallantry has certainly not been surpassed, and has seldom been equalled. The *Bristol*, whose complement of men did not much exceed three hundred, had her captain and forty men killed, and seventy-one wounded. Admiral Parker soon after received the honour of knighthood for this service.

The Admiral, with General Clinton, next sailed to Rhode Island, of which they obtained possession without

without bloodshed, the enemy abandoning it on their approach.

Soon after his return to England he was sent out as Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships on the Jamaica station. This post he held till the conclusion of the war, and returned to England with a splendid fortune, acquired by captures. The merchants of the Spanish islands had reason to dread his name, for he made so judicious a disposition of his cruisers that nothing could escape them. This brought a vast influx of wealth to Jamaica, and greatly endeared him to the inhabitants.

At the close of the war he returned, and was soon after raised to the dignity of a Baronet. He has been promoted through the various ranks of Admirals to that of Admiral of the White. When the late war broke out with France, his age released him from more active service, and he was appointed Port-Admiral at Portsmouth, in which station he shewed that he was amply qualified to execute the duties of the office.

At the general election in 1784, Sir Peter was a candidate for the borough of Seaford, in Sussex, with the honourable Mr. Neville, and was returned, but the election was declared void; he stood again for the same borough, in conjunction with Sir John Henderson, and was again returned; but that return was also disallowed by the House of Commons, and their opponents, Sir Godfrey Webster and the late Mr. Flood, voted in on petition.

On the death of Lord Howe, Sir Peter Parker became

came the oldest admiral of the navy, and was of course promoted to be Admiral of the Fleet. This gallant veteran remains an honour to himself and to the country, which he has so long and bravely served in public, and on which his many private good qualities reflect no less credit.

Sir Peter has long been a zealous and leading member of the grand lodge of Free Masons, where he occasionally presides; and is held in great esteem by his brethren for his urbanity and benevolence.

MR. EDMUND CARTWRIGHT.

THE subject of this memoir, so well known as a skilful mechanic and agreeable poet, is the younger brother of John Cartwright, Esq. whose life has already been given in a preceding volume of this work. He was born at Marnham, in the county of Nottingham, in April 1743. At ten years of age he was put under the care of Mr. Clark, a distinguished school-master at Wakefield, in Yorkshire (whose life has been very ably written by one of his scholars, the Reverend Mr. Zouch). With Mr. Clark he remained five years. While under the tuition of this gentleman, he gave the first specimen of his poetical talents: being called upon to produce, with the rest of the boys, an anniversary copy of verses on the foundress of the school, Queen Elizabeth, the superiority of his induced the master to conclude they were borrowed from some printed panegyric on that distinguished character, which brought upon him the dis-

pleasure

pleasure of the master, till his future productions convinced him that they were original.

On leaving Wakefield, he was under the private tuition of the celebrated Dr. Langhorne, with whom he continued till he was sent to Oxford, in 1760, when he was entered a commoner of University College. In July 1762 he was elected a Demy of Magdalen College; and in 1764 he was chosen Fellow of the same Society. During his residence at college he enjoyed the society of some of the most distinguished young men at that time in the university; amongst the number were the late Sir William Jones, Mr. Pye, the present poet-laureate, and Dr. Thurlow, the late Bishop of Durham.

On taking the degree of master of arts, and entering into orders, he retired into the country, where he resided for some years on a small family living.

In 1771 he published that elegant and justly admired poem, *Armene and Elvira*, which went through seven or eight editions in the course of eighteen months.

In December 1772 he married Alice, daughter of Richard Whitaker, Esq. of Doncaster, in Yorkshire; shortly after which he removed to Brampton, in Derbyshire. It was here he made that most valuable discovery, the application of yeast in putrid fevers; a particular account of which may be met with in Dr. Thornton's fifth volume of the *Philosophy of Medicine*.

In 1779 he was presented to the rectory of Goadby-Merwood, in Leicestershire. About this time he published

1800-1801.

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lished the Prince of Peace, and some other smaller poems.

In 1785 he had the misfortune to lose his wife, and soon after went to reside at Doncaster. Here it was that his mechanical talents first discovered themselves, in the invention of a loom working by machinery; and as soon as he brought it to the requisite degree of perfection, one of the first houses in Manchester contracted with him for five hundred, and erected a mill for their reception upon a larger scale (as we have been informed) than any other manufacturing mill at that time in existence. As soon as it was understood what the mill was designed for, anonymous letters were written to the proprietors threatening its destruction, and which indeed took place in less than a month after the looms were set to work. Had it not been for this misfortune (in consequence of which the contract above-mentioned became void, and the manufacturers deterred from having any thing to do with the looms), this invention alone would have been a very ample fortune to him.

Were we to give all the particulars of this gentleman's history as a mechanician, it would much exceed the limits of this biographical sketch; we must, however, not omit mentioning that master-piece of mechanical ingenuity, his machine for combing of wool, which caused such an alarm, that the whole body of wool-combers, from all quarters of the country, petitioned Parliament in 1793 to suppress the use of it; but the petition was thrown out. It might naturally have been supposed, that when this opposition was defeated

defeated the inventor would have quietly enjoyed the fruits of his ingenuity ; but the prospects of advantage this valuable invention held out to him were for many years frustrated by some who worked it in secret, and by the barefaced audacity of others who publicly took out patents for mere variations of the invention. It was not till the spring of 1800 that he established his patent right, by a decision given in his favour in the Court of Common Pleas. After a trial of twenty-six hours a verdict was found for him, and the damages awarded, one thousand pounds ; a sum very inadequate to the injuries he had sustained.

In 1790 he formed a second matrimonial connection with Susannah, youngest daughter of the Rev. Dr. John Kearney, of Ireland, precentor of Armagh, of an ancient family in that kingdom, who married Henrietta, youngest daughter of the honourable and Rev. Dr. Henry Brydges, younger son of Lord Chandos, who was for many years Ambassador at Constantinople, and brother to John Brydges, the first Duke of Chandos.

In 1796 he removed to the metropolis. On the death of the late Mr. Moore, Secretary to the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, Mr. Cartwright offered himself as a successor, and there is every reason to believe he would have been the successful candidate ; but with a generosity and modesty not often to be met with, he withdrew in favour of a competitor, whose practical knowledge in the manufacturing line promises to be particularly serviceable to the Society. The memo-

farther advanced his political fame the following session, on the subject of the Irish propositions, and was looked upon by both parties as a gentleman destined, by his abilities and application, to rise to the first offices of the State. Mr. Grenville, on the subject of a commercial treaty with France, very greatly distinguished himself by his knowledge of the general principles of trade, and of the respective interests of both powers. On the question concerning the impeachment of Mr. Hastings, he voted against the first charges being brought forward; but on having examined the circumstances, he at length voted for his impeachment.

Having devoted a great portion of attention to the usages and forms of the House, he was appointed Speaker, and was very much admired for his conduct in that office. Through life he has applied himself with wonderful assiduity to foreign politics, and in 1791 was deemed the fittest man to succeed the late Duke of Leeds as Secretary of State for the foreign department. At this time French affairs became extremely critical, the revolutionary doctrines were spreading very fast; and an intercourse with that country becoming daily more dangerous, it required great delicacy of address, and very skilful policy, to discourage the propagators of destructive principles without a hostile interference with a nation from whence they issued. When the King of France announced to the neighbouring powers his acceptance of the new constitution, the answer delivered by the British Ministry was extremely wise and cautious;

tious ; without expressing any opinion on the goodness or badness of a system which, as it had not at that time interfered with this country, it did not then belong to our government to discuss. About this time he was created a Peer by the title of Lord Grenville. Besides accuracy and extent of political knowledge, his Lordship, now that his talents were matured by experience, shewed himself deeply conversant with the general principles of politics, in discussing the propriety of our interference between Russia and Turkey ; he, in a few words, explained the object which induced Britain, both then and at other times, to adopt the conduct which it did in the continental politics of Europe. “ An idle and vulgar prejudice,” he observed, “ was disseminated through the nation, “ that this country had no occasion for foreign connection, that it was our best system to stand alone. “ This was an unfounded doctrine, a delusive and “ dangerous policy. But though it was certainly “ untrue that we could safely and prudently stand “ alone, it was true that we had no ambitious objects “ to pursue ; we had nothing to gain ; we wished “ only to remain as we were, and our alliances could “ only have the tendency of maintaining the balance “ of power. Our principles were pacific ; it was known “ to Europe that they were so ; and it was a matter of “ pride, that, standing on the high eminence which “ we did, we exerted our power only for the maintenance of peace.”

“ Such was the true object of our late interference. “ Our ally, Prussia, had substantial reasons for alarm

“ at the encroachment of Russia on the Porte. : They
“ threatened the overthrow of that balance which
“ was necessary to the general tranquillity. It was
“ evident that the object of Russia was to become
“ maritime ; and he desired to know if that was an
“ object favourable, or even safe, to England ? It
“ was an acknowledged fact, that if ever she did
“ become maritime, it was to the friendship of Eng-
“ land that she owed her naval powers. Oczakow
“ was said to be of no value in the hands of Russia.
“ He denied the fact : in the hands of Russia it was
“ important ; because it could only be for offence.
“ To the Porte it could only be of consequence for
“ defence : it was precisely on this distinction that
“ the alarm had been taken. Such was the opinion
“ of their ally ; such has been adopted as the opinion
“ of the Cabinet ; and upon opinion they acted. In
“ the same speech he exhibited a general view of the
“ weight due to public opinion in a free country, il-
“ lustrated by the conduct of Ministers in the dispute
“ with Russia. When they found, that not only in
“ the two Houses of Parliament there were a consi-
“ derable number of persons who did not agree with
“ his Majesty’s Ministers in this view of the object,
“ and still more so when they found that this senti-
“ ment was taken up by a great number, if not a
“ majority of the people, it became a new question,
“ whether with a divided people they should persist
“ in a prosecution of the object. They, with a pro-
“ per deference to public opinion, determined that it
“ was not proper to risque the hazard of the war under
“ such

“ such circumstances. Such was his opinion ; su
“ ought ever to be the influence on a popular Govern-
“ ment of public opinion, and he should ever yield to
“ its sway. In the various transactions of Europe,
“ British policy had of late been exerted in restoring
“ things to the *status quo* ; the balance which it was
“ thought necessary to poise. A treaty had been
“ formed through the meditation of the allied powers,
“ between the Emperor and the Porte, on the basis
“ of the strict *status quo*. Peace had been re-estab-
“ lished between Russia and Sweden, but on the same
“ basis. The Netherlands had been restored to the
“ House of Austria, and the ancient constitution se-
“ cured to the people on the mediation of the allied
“ powers ; and peace had been also established be-
“ tween Russia and the Porte, on the basis of the *sta-*
“ *tus quo*, qualified only by the retention of Oczakow.
“ All this had been done in the true spirit of the pa-
“ cific principles by which we were governed. It
“ was a glorious distinction for England, that, placed
“ on a pinnacle of prosperity, unprecedented not only
“ in our own annals, but in the history of all other
“ nations, she exerted her power, not for aggrandise-
“ ment and ambition—not to profit from the dis-
“ tractions of other countries—not to cherish any
“ mean sentiment of revenge for wounds inflicted in
“ the moments of our weakness, to seize in our turn
“ our moment of advantage, and perpetuate the dis-
“ orders that ravaged a neighbouring and rival people.
“ That with the means of unprecedented influence
“ she exerted it for the peace of Europe, and desired
“ only

“ only to be felt and known as the friend, and not as
“ the disturber of other nations.”

During the same session the discussion of the principles that related to the French Revolution came before Parliament. In the House of Lords, Lord Grenville's speech was in the same strain of official caution which had been observed in every thing that could relate to France. He confined himself to the general folly of such doctrines, and their inadmissibility in this country, without saying a word of the propriety or impropriety of their adoption by another people. He expressed himself with great justice and force on those publications which occasioned the strong proclamation of 1792. “ Seditious publications had been industriously circulated among all ranks of people, and from the style in which they were written, were not so much an appeal to their judgment as to their passions, and had a tendency to irritate and inflame their minds. If it was asked, whether the proclamation issued upon that contemptible, trivial, and libellous work of Paine's, he would answer, he said, No : for he thought it the most deficient and foolish publication that could be printed ; but there were many others in circulation, and those were followed up by societies and meetings avowedly inculcating their principles, which were nothing short of a total subversion of every known and wise system of government : they had not even stopped here, but had disseminated their seditious purposes by attempts to excite, by handbills, mutiny and disorder

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“der amongst the army and navy. When they had
“come to this pitch, would any man say, that Mi-
“nisters ought to remain inactive, or that it was un-
“necessary for the Executive Government to inter-
“fere? Certainly not; the danger might easily be
“averted in the beginning, but would prove great
“and serious if neglected. There was one point
“more to be noticed concerning those proceedings,
“and that was their correspondence with foreign
“countries. In his opinion no profit could be de-
“rived to this country from any interference in the
“affairs of France.”

In the course of the parliamentary recess various events took place, which called forward the political abilities of the noble Secretary for foreign affairs. The French Monarchy was annihilated, though the Monarch was still suffered to live. Though Britain continued to observe a formal neutrality in the war between France and Germany, the French revolutionists shewed themselves inimical to the existing constitution of this country. We had not openly interfered with their internal affairs, but they interfered with ours: they had publicly encouraged private societies and individuals in their principles, declarations, and professed intentions, altogether unfriendly to the established Government. This, no doubt, was impolitic. When they had dethroned their King, the gentleman who had been his Ambassador could no longer be received as the Minister of a personage deprived of the power of either acting for himself or appointing others to act for him. His late Ambassador must, therefore,

therefore, cease to be considered as an accredited Minister. A correspondence took place between M. Chauvelin and Lord Grenville, in which the letters of our Secretary displayed a severity of retort rarely equalled in diplomatic discussions.

We now approach the period when Great Britain relinquished her neutral character, and became a party in the war that had traversed the Austrian Netherlands, and threatened the dominions of the United Provinces. The zeal with which the French Convention propagated revolutionary principles had roused the alarm of the British Ministry, who believed that the enemy had formed a connection with certain political societies established in London; and the manner in which deputies from them were received at the bar, had already excited the vigilance of our Government, and compelled it to employ such measures as the important and extraordinary circumstances of the country appeared to demand.

It was alleged that France avowed an intention of provoking Great Britain to war, and that in this view, among others, it was determined by the executive power of France, to set aside the law of nations, and trample on treaties, by declaring not only its design, but its right, to open the navigation of the Scheldt.

The French were extending their dominions much farther than was consistent with the security of Europe, and had published a decree hostile to the welfare of existing Governments. M. Chauvelin himself endeavoured to justify the conduct of the Executive Council of France respecting Great Britain
and

and her allies. The correspondence which passed on this occasion is of the highest historical importance, as it very clearly ascertains who were the aggressors in the war. The documents therein contained may be referred to, as a satisfactory and convincing answer to all the arguments adduced by the most powerful and most brilliant genius, in the letters of one of the first political orators, and one of the first judicial orators, that have ever graced the history of mankind. It is of biographical importance in the present article, as it strikingly illustrates two prominent features in Lord Grenville's character : that laborious assiduity and patient investigation which master details ; that acute abstracting mind which generalizes particulars, educes principles, and comprehends results.

Having examined all the circumstances, and viewed the whole conduct of the Republic of France, he discerned that hostile attempts, dividing themselves into three branches, proceeded from one source, the desire of revolutionizing and dissecting Europe. " France," he said, " could have no right to annul " the stipulations relative to the Scheldt, unless she " have also a right to set aside equally all the other " treaties between all the powers of Europe, and all " the other rights of England or of her allies. She " can even have no pretence to interfere in the ques- " tion of the Scheldt, unless she were the sovereign " of the Low Countries, or had the right to dictate " laws to all Europe. England will never consent " that France shall arrogate the power of annulling at " her

“ her pleasure, and under the pretence of a pretended
“ natural right, of which she makes herself the only
“ judge, the political system of Europe, established by
“ solemn treaties, and guaranteed by the consent of
“ all the powers.” The question indeed respecting
the Scheldt, Lord Grenville and others simplified into
the following proposition: Whether a party making a
change in his internal arrangements thereby acquires
a just claim to annihilate the rights of another party,
independent on him and his arrangements. History,
if she speak impartial truth, must thus state the
question, and judge the conduct of England and of
Lord Grenville. With equal strength he wrote con-
cerning French views of general aggrandisement.
“ This Government,” he said, “ adhering to the
“ maxims which it has followed for more than a cen-
“ tury, will also never see with indifference that
“ France shall make herself, either directly or indi-
“ rectly, sovereign of the Low Countries, or general
“ arbitress of the rights and liberties of Europe.”
Concerning the decree of November 19th, he formed
and delivered his sentiments, not according to what
this gentleman said, but according to what the French
revolutionists had done. In the decree of the Na-
tional Convention of the 19th of November 1792,
England saw the former declarations of a design to
extend universally the new principles of government
adopted in France, and to encourage disorder and
revolt in all countries, even in those which are neutral.
“ If this interpretation,” he said, “ which you represent
“ as injurious to the Convention, could admit of any
“ doubt,

“doubt, it is but too well justified by the conduct of
“the Convention itself. And the application of these
“principles to the King’s dominions has been shewn
“unequivocally by the public reception given to the
“promoters of sedition in this country, and by the
“speeches made to them precisely at the time of this
“decree, and since on several different occasions.”

In the course of this discussion M. Chauvelin (in the language of Lord Grenville) having on the part of France offered no satisfaction for her aggressions, and war having been resolved upon in the British Cabinet, his Lordship displayed his abilities in promoting and supporting measures for the internal and external security. There was at this time a very considerable number of foreigners and aliens in Great Britain. As many of these had manifested evil intentions towards this nation, it was thought a necessary measure by his Majesty’s Ministers to apply to Parliament to provide for the public tranquillity, by subjecting the resort and residence of aliens to certain regulations. Accordingly Lord Grenville, on the 19th of December, brought in a bill into the House of Lords for that purpose.

The object of this bill was to regulate the admission or residence of foreigners, so as to enable the King to prevent from arriving, or dismiss if arrived, all those whose continuance in the country should be deemed dangerous to our constitution and security. His Lordship having, upon the same principles and views from which he promoted the alien bill, supported the law for prohibiting traiterous correspondence

spondence between British subjects and the enemy; and for detecting suspected persons, and other momentous measures, in the sessions 1793 and 1794, for securing this country against internal and foreign enemies; and, while thus occupied in his legislative capacity, he had, in his executive situation, a greater portion of official business than probably ever employed a British Secretary for the foreign department; the relations of this country to a confederacy not only extensively complicated, but involving in it such a variety of objects and concerns formerly unknown in the history of alliances.

The proceedings of disaffected individuals having, by the mildness of the English laws, eluded the definitions of legal criminality, Lord Grenville therefore proposed to extend the laws, so as to include the legal definition to equal degrees of moral culpability, and of political mischief. This was the amount of the famous act which he proposed in November 1795.

To particularize every instance in which the senatorial and executive talents of this statesman have been displayed, would be to exhibit a short history of parliamentary debates and most subjects of domestic and foreign policy.

He is unquestionably a very able representative of Mr. Pitt, but his eloquence has been considered as more declamatory than argumentative, and more passionate and noisy than conciliatory and persuasive.

Since the change of ministers, Lord Grenville has taken the lead of a new Opposition, the radical principle of which is the impolicy of the late peace,
and

and the insecurity of this country through the aggrandizement of France.

His Lordship married the only daughter of the late Lord Camelford, but is without issue.

DR. WILLIAM HAWES.

The tear to wipe, to check the sigh,
To watch the pangs of Sorrow's bed,
Hygeia's genial balm supply,
And pillow'd Care with roses spread :
The tenant sits of transient clay,
Who cheers a fellow-pilgrim's way ;
Bids Comfort's scene his hour attend,
With Brother, Father, Wife, and Friend.

Ode by E. B. Green, Esq.

WHILE the eye alternately traces, in the biographic page, memoirs of heroes, statesmen, poets, and divines, it is with pleasure we now present to the contemplative mind the modest but forcible claims of an eminent philanthropist.

It is our duty to record worth : and though the task may be sometimes delicate, yet that impartial zeal which characterizes our pages, while it has obviated censure, has secured us approbation.

On the score of humanity, we anticipate the gratitude of our readers in attempting to delineate the prominent features of that life, which has for a series of years been its avowed patron and active friend ; we mean Dr. William Hawes, whose unremitting exertions in the god-like art of resuscitation has been (to

1800-1801.

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use the words of an amiable living physician) enough to wear down the constitution of any man.

Dr. Hawes was born at Islington, about the year 1736, and, after a liberal education at St. Paul's school, was apprenticed to Mr. Carsan, an ingenious surgeon, in the vicinity of Vauxhall. Having gone through the preparatory studies, he settled in the Strand, where, by his application and unwearied attention to his patients, he acquired a considerable degree of reputation and affectionate esteem.

Year after year elapsed, in an assiduous application to the duties of his profession, while his leisure hours were employed in the researches of science, and the cultivation of friendships, replete with solid advantage to his studies in that path of public utility which he had adopted, and unquestionably meant to pursue through life.

Nothing, therefore, occurs for us particularly to notice, until the death of that ornamental and revered genius Dr. Goldsmith. That event, happening as it did, excited a considerable share of the public attention.

In 1774, Dr. Hawes published an account of his illness and death, which melancholy event was hastened by an improper administration of Dr. James's powder, without the knowledge or consent of his medical attendants, Dr. Hawes and Dr. Turton.

In this work Dr. Hawes cautions persons against using powerful medicines without due medical advice, as the injury once done cannot be recalled, and

often, as in the instance above, terminates fatally: urging patience, at the commencement of a disease, rather than an hasty application of potent medicines, which, in unskillful hands, rather stand a chance of doing irreparable mischief than of restoring health; for (says he) it is an indisputable maxim, that whenever powerful means are administered, if the consequences are not beneficial, they must be exceedingly pernicious, and perhaps fatal.

Sir Joshua Reynolds and Mr. Burke deputed Dr. Hawes, after this melancholy event, to the management of Dr. Goldsmith's affairs until the arrival of his brother. This work, printed at the express desire of those celebrated characters, with their permission was dedicated to them.*

In 1777, Dr. Hawes published an Address on Immature Death and Premature Interment, of which

* See an account of the late Dr. Goldsmith's illness, &c. 8vo. The dedication concludes thus: "I am, however, willing to take this opportunity of expressing the great respect which I have for you, Gentlemen, to whom, with your permission, I have taken the liberty of addressing this publication. I am happy in having my conduct approved by two of Dr. Goldsmith's most intimate and respectable friends, both of whom have deservedly attained to a very high degree of reputation."—How the profits of this work were to be applied we learn from page 21. "As my late respected and ingenious friend, Dr. Goldsmith, was pleased to honour Dr. Cogan and myself with his patronage and assistance in the plan for the recovery of persons apparently dead, now on the point of being established in this kingdom, I think I cannot shew a greater proof of my esteem for the deceased, than by applying the profits of this publication to an institution, the design of which was favoured by his warm approbation."

ten thousand copies were distributed gratis, to excite in the public mind the fatal effects of laying out persons too soon, or of hurrying them to the grave before actual signs of dissolution appear; whereby the vital spark is often extinguished, which, by a different treatment, might have been fanned into life, and apparently departed objects have been restored to their lamenting friends. This seasonable address was productive of much good to mankind. How fallacious and deceptive the signs of death are, almost every day's experience has proved since its publication.

In 1780, Dr. Hawes published a third edition of an *Examination of the Rev. J. Wesley's Primitive Physic*, 8vo. So rational a confutation did Dr. Hawes great credit, while it exposed the ignorance of Mr. Wesley, and the absurdity of remedies founded neither on theory or experience.

Much judicious medical advice is interspersed in this *Examination*. It exposes the ill effects of prescribing for symptoms without due attention to the history and progress of diseases, which knowledge cannot be properly within the province of those who too frequently take upon them to prescribe.

In 1781, the Doctor published an *Address to the Legislature on the importance of the Humane Society*, on the score of humanity, philanthropy, and sound policy, and stated therein a variety of consequences which were rationally to be expected from the general establishment of receiving houses, more especially if founded on that extensive scale where alone the patronage of the Legislature could place it.

“ When

“When sudden death happens (says our author) by accident in the public street, or other places on land, too often the consideration of inconvenience overcomes the dictates of humanity, and no friendly door is open to receive the body; or, if there is, the attendants are ignorant of their duty. Even when the affectionate surround the bed of the suffering objects of pain and sickness, and re-echo the departing sigh, sorrow suppresses activity, and phrenzy triumphs over wisdom. Struck with these varied unfortunate inconveniences, the author is anxious to recommend general receiving-houses, supported by the authority and sanction of the Legislature, conceiving that to be the only means of preventing immature death and premature interment. He has, with this view, through the medium of pamphlets distributed gratis, hints suggested in the public prints, and lectures on animation publicly delivered, recommended such establishments; but with infinite concern he is obliged to declare, that his unwearied endeavours have not had the desired effect.

“As the gentlemen of the faculty are now situated, they have not an opportunity of affording that assistance in cases of sudden and accidental death, which otherwise, by their attention, skill, and humanity, they might often effect. When medical men are applied to on such unfortunate occasions, they are always introduced to a scene of real confusion. If the miserable object wears the ensign of poverty, this catastrophe is generally in the open street, amidst a crowd of spectators, whom curiosity and sympathy have drawn together; and as they come by chance, they are not furnished with any of the necessaries to forward the medical practitioner in his laudable endeavours to restore animation. Even if the unhappy person, thus suddenly arrested by the semblance of death, has the external appearance of a better fortune, his situation is little mended. Instead of the seemingly dead body lying on the cold earth or pavement, it may perhaps be raised from the ground and placed on a shop floor; but still the same confusion and distress prevail, still the medical man, on being sent for, has to regret the want of necessary as well as proper assistance, in order to rouse the latent spark of life.”*

* See an Address to the King and Parliament of Great Britain, 3d edition, to which are added, Observations on the General Bills of Mortality, by W. Hawes, M. D.

About this period the Doctor commenced an interesting plan of medical education, viz. Lectures on suspended Animation, which excited the attention of the faculty and the public. As these lectures were novel, it may be gratifying to introduce here somewhat of their scope and object ; which were,

1. To instruct the younger part of the faculty how to preserve human life in every critical circumstance, wherein the vital powers are liable to be suspended; and to urge the importance of the enquiry, on every principle of christianity, national policy, and humanity.

2. To consider the sundry derangements which suspend the action of the principal vital organ, the brain, the heart, or the lungs; together with the various means for restoring their respective functions.

3. An inquiry (so far as relates to the present subject) into the effects of the animal, vegetable, and mineral poisons; their deleterious power in suddenly destroying the vital functions; and the most approved methods of preventing or correcting their baneful effects, when received into the human body.

4. The modes of recovering persons from syncope, inebriation, trance, drowning, suffocation by the cord, or noxious vapours, intense cold, or lightning.

5. Important reflections on still-born children, and the most efficacious modes of restoring vital action.

6. The various symptoms of apparent death, which sometimes supervene in acute diseases, but which might frequently be surmounted by suitable measures speedily adopted and vigorously pursued; and lastly, the usual signs of death considered, and those which are *certain* distinguished from those which are more equivocal, &c.

These lectures closed with an adjudication of prize medals, offered by Dr. Hawes, for the best dissertations on the following questions: " Are there any positive signs of extinction of human life, independent

dent of putrefaction? If so, what are they? Or, if there be not, is putrefaction a certain criterion of death?"

The award was couched in the following terms :

" London, Harpur-street, October 3, 1782.

" Having deliberately considered the dissertations submitted to our determination, we unanimously adjudge the Gold Medal to Dr. Pearson, of Birmingham, and the Silver Medal to the dissertation whose motto is "*Humanitas*." We embrace the present opportunity of expressing our joint tribute of approbation to Dr. Hawes, on account of so signal an exertion of zeal for the interests of humanity and the advancement of science.

(Signed) " J. C. LETTSOM, A. FOTHERGILL,
" JOHN JEBB, J. WHITEHEAD."

The gold medal was presented to Mr. Pearson, with the following address :

" To you, Sir, on the part of your brother, Dr. Pearson, at Birmingham, we present this honorary medal, as a tribute justly due to his abilities and philanthropy. In addition to this we beg to inform him, that a decision so much in his favour, by such truly respectable and excellent physicians as Dr. Lettsom, Dr. A. Fothergill, Dr. John Jebb, and Dr. Whitehead, when so many well-written essays were offered for their judgment, will, in our opinion, stamp his merit with the world and the medical profession. We hope that, at so early a period of life, his success will lead to more important exertions, so as to be productive of future fame and fortune; and that he will feel, in its fullest extent, the first of all rewards, the conscious satisfaction of having contributed to the benefit and happiness of mankind."

On the exergue was *Lateat Scintillula Forsan*, 1782, round the civic wreath, *Ad conservationem Vitæ, et incrementum Scientiæ*, Donavit Gul. Hawes, M. D. within the wreath, *Juveni optime merenti, Ricardi Pearson*.

" Thus ended a business, (observes the Doctor*) highly inte-

* Address to the King and Parliament, 8vo. 3d edit. page 34.

resting to the public safety, and to the promotion of medical knowledge. A business which the author can truly say was set on foot purely for the benefit of mankind. His views will be most amply fulfilled if his humble example should induce lecturers at the universities, and in the metropolis, to offer prize medals for enquiries into whatever requires elucidation in the various and complicated branches of medicine. The result of such conduct would be an emulous promotion of public good and professional reputation."

The following elegant compliment from an amiable and scientific physician, now living at Bath, we cannot resist this opportunity of noticing, as it is so highly creditable both to the addresser and the addressed.

ON THE ART OF RESTORING ANIMATION,

ADDRESSED TO DR. HAWES.

"*Nulla in re homines proprius accedunt ad DEOS quam vitam hominibus intermortuis resuscitando.*" CICERO.

While others sing of warlike deeds,
 Embattl'd squadrons!—foaming steeds!
 Whose dreadful conflict, far and wide,
 Pours forth the sanguinary tide!
 With all those direful scenes of woe
 That people Pluto's realms below!
 While widows' shrieks, and orphans' cries,
 Bemoan the haughty victor's prize;
 My Muse abhors the bloody car,
 And all the impious pomps of war;
 With pity views those restless things,
 Styl'd Princes, Heroes, Conquerors, Kings!—
 And bids attune the peaceful lyre,
 To *those* whom healing arts inspire;
 Who fan the embers of Promethean fire. }
 What victor claims such just renown,
 As he who earns the civic crown:

Whose

Whose godlike office is to save
 The just, the virtuous, and the brave ;
 Too oft pale victims to the Stygian wave !
 T' unfold the enlivening art divine
 Deserves a more than mortal shrine.
 It long lay hid in Nature's laws,
 Till late she gave the Key to HAWES :
 Who, zealous of th' important trust,
 Humanely views the lifeless dust ;
 When, if one *latent spark* remains,
 An heart-felt joy rewards his generous pains.

A. F.

We now come to notice another work of the Doctor's, wherein his critical and discriminating power of detection is again displayed; we mean his "Observations on the General Bills of Mortality." This is certainly an important work: it concludes thus—

"Such are the errors of the modern bills of mortality. Is it possible for the calculator, philosopher, physician, or the public, to be better informed, while the *searchers* are commonly two as poor and ignorant persons as the parish affords? These are to see all dead bodies, and report to the company of parish clerks of what disease they died. If the body is emaciated, which may happen even in fevers, it is enough for them to place it to the article of consumption, &c. though the death of the party was perhaps owing to a malady specifically different: and thus an account of mortality is framed in the highest degree erroneous."

A series of acts of humanity justly recommended the Doctor to the honours, as well as the advantages of his profession. In 1781, the degree of M. D. was conferred upon him, and in 1782, he offered himself as one of the physicians to the Surry Dispensary, which called forth the following honourable testimonies to his character and abilities:

" To

"To the Governors of the Surry Dispensary.

"There are instances where we recommend reluctantly, Upon the present occasion, of electing a physician to the Surry Dispensary, I do most cordially recommend Dr. Hawes, not merely because he studied medicine in the schools for a series of years, but likewise because he has practised it for upwards of twenty years in the best practical school in Europe, the city of London, where his humanity as a man, and his skill as a physician, procured him the degree of Doctor of Physic—the best titles certainly to engage your support; for in a Dispensary where multitudes of poor, but deserving objects, claim your tender sympathy, a physician of known humanity, and tried medical skill, seems peculiarly adapted for your choice. It is upon these considerations, and his great services to the public in establishing, in the most zealous manner, that excellent institution the Humane Society, that I recommend Dr. Hawes on the present occasion, knowing him qualified for the important office of your physician, and likely to render essential services to your invaluable charity.

Sambrook House,

(Signed)

J. C. LETTSOM."

July 15th, 1781.

This was succeeded by the following testimony from George Fordyce, M. D.:

"In justice to the professional character of Dr. Hawes, I do certify the following facts to have come within my knowledge, and declare the same to be true. That for many years, in the early part of his life, he was remarkably attentive to cultivate knowledge in the various branches of medicine, and that he was a Member, and an occasional President, of several medical societies, with some of the most eminent physicians and surgeons now in London. The Doctor attended lectures on botany, chemistry, materia medica, practice of physick, and the cases of patients, for upwards of nine years. His medical education has, therefore, afforded him equal opportunities of obtaining sound practical knowledge, as could have been met with any where. I have likewise observed his practice among many of his patients

mote

more than seventeen years, and in every point of view am clearly convinced he is duly qualified to act as physician to any public charity.

St. Thomas's Hospital,

(Signed) G. FORDYCE,

July 24th, 1781.

It is scarcely necessary to add, that the Doctor was chosen by a large majority.

As the Humane Society is so closely connected with the fame of Dr. Hawes, we shall briefly trace its origin and progress.

The penetrating genius of Dr. John Fothergill had, many years ago, been aware of the fallacy of the received criteria of dissolution; and in a paper addressed to the Royal Society, he maintained "the possibility of saving many lives without risking any thing."*

But the year 1773 was providentially destined to illumine the English nation with regard to this divine art, for in that year an amiable and ingenious physician, Dr. Cogan, translated the "Amsterdam Memoirs," in order to acquaint the British Nation of the practicability of restoring persons apparently drowned.†

* What Dr. Fothergill endeavoured to prove, illustrate, and enforce, on this subject, has been since attempted in most maritime States in Europe, and he enjoyed the pleasure of living to see those rules adopted with success in this metropolis, by the ardour of Dr. Hawes and others, which upwards of thirty years before he had recommended by his pen.

Vide Lettsom's Memoirs of John Fothergill, M. D.

† Dr. Cogan has lately added to his other valuable publications, a translation of Professor Camper's work on the connection

Dr. Hawes, on the perusal of his ingenious friend's work, instantly embraced a plan so intimately connected with individual happiness and the public good, and in conjunction with Dr. Cogan, in 1774, exerted himself to attract the public attention to so important a subject.

At a General Court of the Directors of the Humane Society in 1776, Dr. Towers sat as chairman; and after congratulating the Society, in a variety of successful cases of astonishing recoveries, the chairman thus proceeded :

“ To the well known humanity of his (Dr. Hawes's) disposition, and to that activity of benevolence for which he was so remarkable, this Society in a great degree owed its origin. The reasonableness and utility of an institution of this kind had been very early seen by Dr. Hawes, and therefore he had laboured to promote it, with a diligence and an ardour that would ever do him honour. Indeed, before the establishment of this Society, he had publicly advertised rewards for notice to be brought him of any persons in such situations, within a reasonable distance from his own habitation, as those who are now the objects of this institution; which was the strongest demonstration of his solicitude to promote so benevolent a design; and that afterwards, by joining with his worthy colleague, Dr. Cogan, in adopting the necessary measures for establishing the present institution, he had performed a real service to his country.”

The Royal Humane Society was therefore instituted this year, but no sooner had it surmounted the first difficulties inseparable from such a novel undertaking, than it not only fixed the attention of the

tion between anatomy, sculpture, painting, &c. and more recently, a Philosophical Treatise on the Passions, 8vo.

faculty,

faculty, but also attracted the notice of the poet, the painter, the divine, and the philosopher.*

A popular living writer,† in his poem of "HUMANITY," is a proof of this assertion, in the following poetic tribute :

" And oh! 'tis THINE, when vital breath seems fled,
To seek the awful confines of the dead !
Beneath the billow, though the victim lies,
Thy dauntless zeal the roaring main defies;
Inspir'd by HIM, whose hallow'd touch restor'd
The darling son the widow's soul deplor'd;
Her matron bosom eas'd of dire alarms,
And gave the youth to her despairing arms.
'Tis thine to plunge into the bloating flood,
Clasp the swoln frame, and thaw the frozen blood;
Breathe in the lips re-animating fire,
Till warm'd to SECOND LIFE, the DROWN'D respire.

Hark! as those lips once more begin to move,
What sounds ascend of gratitude and love !
Now with the GREAT REDEEMER's praise they glow,
Then bless the agents of his power below :
New sprung to life, the renovated band,
Joyful before their second Saviours stand.
And, oh ! far sweeter than the breathing spring,
Fairer than Paradise the wreathes they bring.
The blisful homage rescued friends impart,
Th' enraptured incense of a parent's heart;
O'eraw'd, and wond'ring at themselves, they see
The magic power of soft HUMANITY !"

* Vide, " A new Inquiry into the Suspension of Vital Action, &c., by A. Fothergill, M. D. of Bath," whose literary exertions in the cause of humanity have been conspicuous, and of infinite benefit to the cause of resuscitation. See also Mr. Kite's " Essay on the Recovery of the Drowned ;" the works of Dr. Goodwyn, Coleman, and others, on the same subject.

† Mr. Pratt.

By such collateral aid, but still more by the uncommon exertions of one individual, has this institution at length happily silenced all objections, triumphed over prejudice, and diffused its benefits over a considerable part of the known world.

His Majesty graciously accepted the gold medal of the Society in 1778,* and condescended to become its immediate patron in 1784, and most beneficently granted a plot of ground near the Serpentine River, in Hyde Park, for the erection of a receiving house, in case of accidents, where the Society have erected a neat building, furnished with such an apparatus as cannot be rivalled in Europe, for the restoration of unfortunate victims plunged into the contiguous stream. "The Philanthropist may here survey the

* His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland was presented with the gold medal of this Society, at St. James's Palace, in August 1798, by Dr. Lettsom, Dr. Hawes, Joseph Thompson, and John Nichols, Esquires. Dr. Hawes thus addressed the Prince, "May it please your Royal Highness, the Court of Directors of the Royal Humane Society, an institution under the patronage of your august father, have deputed us to wait upon your Highness, to request your acceptance of the gold medal, and the transactions of the Society, which are the most peculiar and distinguished marks of approbation in their power to bestow. The former will be a standing monument of your Royal Highness's beneficence and philanthropy, so providentially exerted in the restoration to life of an unfortunate, desponding suicide."

His Royal Highness accepted the medal and transactions with that amiable condescension, which adds dignity to the most exalted character. The circumstance it alludes to was the Prince's exertions in restoring to life a young woman who had plunged herself into the Thames.

improved

improved and ingenious contrivances of human art, not to destroy but to save and preserve life."

In 1796 the Doctor published the transactions of the Society from 1774 to 1784; a period of ten years, in one volume octavo, dedicated and presented, by permission, to the King, with three plates: 1. A portrait of his Majesty; 2. Apparent dissolution; 3. Returning animation. By this volume, and the annual reports, published for the anniversary festival, we learn, that near three thousand persons have been rescued from premature death by the exertions of the Society;* to the benefit of many both in body and soul. "These are thy glorious works, Parent of Good!"

The infinite value of a single life, and the advantages of the increase of population, as the basis of the riches of the State, we do not mean to discuss here: to every well-informed mind it is sufficiently obvious.

This Society continues to spread its beneficent career through every part of the world;† bold and

* When to these are added the number saved by foreign Societies, and their progeny, the accession to society in a few years must be immense. (See Adam Smith on the Wealth of Nations, &c.)

† The following extract of a letter from Copenhagen, transmitted in May 1800, to the Treasurer, is too interesting for us to pass over: "With the greatest satisfaction we received and perused the works of Goodwyn, Kite, Coleman, and Fothergill, wherein the possibility of restoring suspended animation is, *a priori*, evidently demonstrated; and at the same time in the Transactions of your Society we found that incomparable collection

daring, beginning where all other institutions quit their objects, and where all human expectation was, previous to its successful energies, dormant. It has added a new tie between the living and the dead, and almost by a miracle raised with the body the wandering soul, alive to righteousness and everlasting peace.

The importance of such a member as Dr. Hawes to the very existence of the Society, will readily be granted, when we reflect how much depends on the zeal and abilities of an individual, in many institutions of a public nature, who becomes voluntarily the kind and labouring oar, to forward and execute every view proposed, as the object of its aggregate body. Dr. Hawes in private is extremely regular, rising early. His extensive correspondence with various parts of Europe, &c. relative to the Humane Society, preparing its annual reports, arranging its monthly business, and receiving and disbursing its accounts, occupy no small share in the daily routine of employ-

lection of facts, which, *a posteriori*, confirmed the ingenious theories of the above authors."—"His Majesty the King of Denmark, always attentive to every thing that tends to public utility, has also most graciously supported our institution: and has, moreover, been pleased to order the royal ship wharfs, and all armed vessels, to be furnished with such instruments and remedies for saving and restoring drowned persons, as they hitherto were in want of. In Norway, Tuon, and Jutland, similar Societies have been erected.

(Signed)

J. D. HERRHOLDT, and

C. G. RAFN,

Registrars of the Copenhagen Humane Society.

ment,

ment, and the ardour displayed in these labours does him infinite credit.

But it is not to this Society alone that the Doctor's time is devoted ; for he is the active friend of many public institutions, and Vice President of the London Electrical Dispensary. To witness the Doctor perfectly happy, we must view him at the sublime annual procession at the London Tavern, of persons restored to life, than which a more impressive spectacle was never exhibited to human observation.

“ To see the vital glow return,
Reanimate the faded cheek,
Life's feeble spark re-kindled burn,
And give what language cannot speak.”

“ When attending the annual festival of this institution, you would then, with me, my friends, have enjoyed the truest feast of the soul. You would have seen the tear of gratitude starting from the eye of the aged matron. You would have beheld the fond father returning, by a silent but irresistible kind of eloquence, his ardent thanks to the promoters of his present happiness. You would have been witness to a group of happy beings, each bearing the great charter of his faith, and offering up to God and their preservers the incense of their unfeigned thanks. The sight would have warmed your hearts, and must have enlisted you amongst the firm unalterable friends of this excellent establishment.”*

The Doctor in conversation is pleasant and instructive, his good humour entertains while his knowledge edifies. We are now about to dismiss an article to us particularly pleasing, not only in the record of private worth, but on the broader basis of public good, which has gradually advanced as the Humane So-

* Vide Rev. R. Harrison's Anniversary Sermon, p. 17.

ciety has prospered ; and we anticipate the day when the Legislature will no longer suffer it to exist only in the casual protection of voluntary contributions ; but embracing it as an object of national policy, diffuse its beneficial energies through every part of the British dominions.*

This Society is indebted to the abilities of that ingenious artist *Smirke*, for two very fine pictures, engraved by Pollard, in 1787, representing, Plate 1. a young man taken out of the water, apparently dead, in the sight of his distressed parents—Plate 2. the young man restored to life.†

In delineating this biographical sketch, we have, in conjunction with our own, given sentiments of many highly respected living characters, of whom it is just to infer, that they are above any bias, but on the side of truth. We conclude with a wish, that Dr. Hawes may long enjoy the well-earned laurels which encircle his name, and hope that the public will be ever emulous to patronise his extensive philanthropic views, with an ardour surpassed only by their importance and great public utility.

“ The conquering hero less demands our praise,
Who boasts of victory with ten thousand slain,
Than he who from untimely death doth raise
One victim to his weeping friends again.”

* See an excellent Sermon on Vitality, by the present Bishop of St. Asaph (p. 27.), which our present limits will not permit us to quote at length. Sixth Edit.

† See the interesting and fanciful comment on these points contained in a work entitled *Painting Personified*, &c. 2 vols. 12mo. by A. Bicknell, Esq. Baldwin, 1790.

Dr. Hawes is senior physician to the Surry and London Dispensaries, honorary member of the Royal P.S. Edin. Massachusetts, H. S. Manchester, L. P. S. Bath, A. S. &c. &c.

MR. EDMUND RANDOLPH.

WHEN nations involved in almost constant commotion and warfare can find time to contemplate a country which has hitherto preserved peace, in despite of the factions which have assailed it, and which, by this means, is rising rapidly to prosperity and power, it cannot be uninteresting to them to review the lives and prominent features which characterise those conspicuous individuals, to whom the pupils of desperate politics and party writers have ascribed the influence of an opposite European faction.

Mr. Randolph is one of those who stand highly elevated on this stumbling block of foreign error; and may be honoured, perhaps, with the peculiar epithet of *a marked character*.

As it is easier, however, to stamp a mistaken impression than efface it; as a renovated opinion of the people may chance to bring men again into power, who have gone out under a temporary cloud; and as foreign interests may hinge on the pivot of conciliation; the biographical recorder of living subjects should investigate the facts he sets down with a pure and impartial eye.

Edmund Randolph, Esq. is the only son of John Randolph, Esq. the last Attorney General of Virginia,

under the colonial jurisdiction, who espoused the royal cause, and left his native country with Lord Dunmore. They are of the family of Sir John Randolph, of honourable and respectable memory, and are understood to be his lineal descendants.

John Randolph, the father of this gentleman, married a Miss Jennings, of Maryland, sister to a gentleman of that name, who is well known in London for his urbanity and other good qualities. By this marriage he had three children; Edmund, the gentleman whose life we are about to examine, and two sisters (the belles of their country), who espoused the royal cause with their father, and experienced scenes of activity and difficulty, for which that cause was greatly indebted to them.

Young Mr. Randolph dissented from the political opinion of his father, under whom he had been bred to the study of the law; and, without any collusive inducement to the political division of the family (such as in many cases happened with a view to secure property and interest), he peremptorily refused to accompany his father to England, and took arms in the American contest.

Thus he was, at a very early period, launched into the world by his mental independence, and without any resource but his native talents.

He was shortly after admitted to the practice of the law, it is said, with some degree of indulgence in respect to his years and circumstances. He soon displayed considerable talents as a barrister; and after a satisfactory discharge of secretarial duties to the Convention

Convention of his state, and seeing a little military service in the suite of General Washington; he was called to the civil appointment of Attorney General of Virginia, which had been occupied by his father under the regal government. He about this time married a daughter of Robert Carter Nicholas, Esq. late *regal* treasurer of Virginia, and a man of high and popular integrity and respect. By this lady he had several children; and he enjoyed with her, at Richmond and in its neighbourhood, all those domestic comforts to which a popular reputation, professional abilities, a benevolent and a hospitable disposition entitled him.

Thus he continued several years to hold in the capacity of Attorney General (for which nature had particularly designed him), an extensive practice, the confidence of his clients, and the approbation of the community.

Mr. Randolph is a man of handsome person, middle stature, pleasant countenance, genteel manners, and easy affable address. With these and other accomplishments, added to a merited popularity, Mr. Randolph was called by his country to fill the chair of the chief magistrate in the executive department of Virginia. After filling the dignified office of Governor with great applause, he was elected to a seat in the legislature, where he was also a leading member.

In 1790, that great man General Washington, who knew how to discern, value, and reward merit, appointed Mr. Randolph Attorney General of the

Federal Union. In this capacity he was equally successful as when he held the same appointment in the independent sovereignty of his native state ; but it is probable that the necessary pomp of office deprived him of many comforts, for which its emoluments made but a very poor compensation. He supported the trust, however, with becoming dignity and eclat ; and on the appointment of Mr. Jefferson to the diplomatic functions of the United States in France, he succeeded him in the office of Secretary of State, whence his negotiations with the minister of the French Republic have more loudly announced his name in Europe.

It remains to review the history of facts, which cannot well be understood, while they remain enveloped by prejudice and by party representation.

Mr. Randolph, it has been already observed, was the successor of Mr. Jefferson ; a man of first-rate abilities, who was so far from being a foil to give additional lustre to the brilliancy of Mr. Randolph's talents, that he became necessarily a favourite gem of the people, exhibited in perfect contrast ; and placed the satisfactory conduct of his follower at a proportionate distance.

On the 5th of December 1793, the President of the United States, by message, laid before the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, the whole of the correspondence of the United States with Mr. Hammond, Envoy from the Court of Great Britain, and with Mr. Genet, Envoy from the French Republic, concerning
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the differences then subsisting with their respective countries. The copies of these voluminous documents were certified by Mr. Jefferson, as Secretary of State, on the fourth day of December 1792; and on the 21st of January 1794, Mr. Randolph, as Secretary of State, transmitted a paper to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, which had been omitted by Mr. Jefferson. From hence we ascertain Mr. Randolph's promotion to that office to have taken place about the 1st of January 1794, and he was succeeded as Attorney General by Mr. Bradford, who was soon afterwards sorely afflicted with the indisposition of which he died, about the period of Mr. Randolph's resignation of his last appointment.

On his coming into office as Secretary of State, his attention was immediately called to the protection of his country's neutrality in the conflicts of European commotion. The intrigues of Mr. Genet had found employment for his predecessor on the one hand, and the adjustments with Mr. Hammond on the subjects of the western posts, and the preliminaries of a commercial treaty, had kept him busy on the other. Both these important concerns had been reported through the official channel, at Mr. Jefferson's appointment to France; and there remained much for Mr. Randolph to finish beyond the labours of his predecessor.

A correspondence had been carried on between the Secretary of State and Governor Shelby, concerning certain French emissaries, who had travelled to the western parts of the United States; and who were

supposed to be engaged in raising a force in Kentucky, for the purpose of an incursion into the territories of Louisiana, in the dominions of the King of Spain. On this subject Governor Shelby wrote to the Secretary of State on the 13th January 1794, drawing a line of distinction between his opinion and his duty: which discrimination afforded Mr. Randolph no very discouraging prospect, had he been actually a partisan of France, as some men seem to have insinuated.

Every one knows that, at that period, Spain was in alliance with Great Britain, and that both were in the field against France, as the common enemy of monarchy. Those who wish to be satisfied how far Mr. Randolph exerted himself against the undue influence of the French emissaries in America, will do well to refer to his letter to Governor Shelby, dated Philadelphia, March 29th, 1794, which is to be found among the state papers of the United States.

If we reason from such general principles as are contained in that letter, or from the manner and sentiments which Mr. Randolph has applied to them, there seems to be no cause to ascribe to him any other than a system of politics which is founded on the law of nations, the essence of sovereign right, and the justice due to all countries, whether monarchies or republics. Wheresoever an extraneous fact exists, he applies it uniformly to the same scale of principle by which he admeasures the concerns of its opponent; and his apparent warmth seems to be kindled on the altar of American zeal. But, at a date

date very shortly after this, he expresses himself in a more partial style in favour of France, and somewhat inveterately against England ; the result whereof was, his resignation of his office and a quarrel with General Washington, who had been from his youth up, one of his principal friends and benefactors.

Whether this unfortunate occurrence (possibly stimulated by diplomatic intrigue) should militate to efface his former merits ; whether the circumstances with which it was clothed should go to palliate erroneous conclusions ; whether the state of the times might have required the finesse of modern policy ; or what degree of culpability, if any, should attach to Mr. Randolph, the public will be best able to decide, on a review of the premises which his vindication submits.

It will be recollected, that at this period the Secretary of State was enthralled on all sides by the schemes of opposite factions, as well as by the adjustment of political difference with the respective belligerent powers. In the official negotiations with Great Britain, the retention of the western posts, the incursions of the Indian Savages, the seductions of the American Negroes, his Majesty's instructions to his ships, the remembrance of a horrid civil war, and suspicious circumstances in the Pennsylvania insurrection, excited many unpleasant sensations on their necessary reviewal ; while, on the other hand, the Minister of France found an ample ground for umbrage and remonstrance in the features of the
commercial

commercial treaty then on the tapis with the British Cabinet; and the obligations of the public debt, and *national gratitude to France*, (which her citizens had hocus-pocused from the ledger of monarchy to the journals of an occasional democracy) had not only been played off as powerful engines of intrigue, while in the hands of Mr. Genet, but were evidently adopted as the continued means of the *Great Nation*, though under a different modification of their system, in the hands of his successor.

While these things were transacting, the dispatches of the French Minister to his Government were intercepted by a British ship of war, which contained, amongst other things, certain statements implicating Mr. Randolph. Lord Grenville transmitted these to Mr. Hammond, who was then Minister from the Court of London at Philadelphia. Mr. Hammond put them into the hands of Mr. Wolcott, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States; and Mr. Wolcott laid them before General Washington, who was then President of the United States.

- By the Constitution of the Federal Government, the President of the United States is invested with the entire authority of the executive department; but on General Washington's accession to this high and dignified office, he very modestly distrusted his own abilities, and adopted the expedient of calling in the advice of a Council. This he composed of the principal heads of departments; viz. the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of War, and the Attorney General.

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This Council was called together on all the great emergencies of State ; that he might not only thereby enjoy the best informed and most confidential advice of the community ; but that he might be thus completely armed against any clashing of interests, or the interference of one branch with the office and concerns of another.

In the present instance, there seems to have been a new existing case, wherein his system was unavoidably mutilated, and yet it was a case of the utmost importance to the community ; for no less an officer than the Secretary of State himself seemed to be impeachable on the face of the intercepted dispatches, and he thus necessarily became excluded from the ordinary council, while the Attorney General laboured under the inconvenience of his death-bed malady. There remained only the Secretary of the Treasury, who had communed with Mr. Hammond ; and the Secretary of War, who *himself* became the successor of Mr. Randolph. These two the President had convened as his ordinary council on this occasion ; and they were actually engaged on the enquiry when Mr. Randolph entered the apartment, in the course of his ordinary functions, in the capacity of Secretary of State.

"On Wednesday, the 19th of August 1795," says Mr. Randolph in his Vindication, "I was going to the President's, as usual, at nine o'clock in the morning, when his Steward, Mr. Kidd, came to me at Mr. Rawle's, in Market-street, and informed me, that the President desired me to postpone my visit until half after ten. I supposed, at first, that he might wish to have the latest hour for writing by the southern mail of that day, or perhaps

haps to ride out. But as I was desirous to ask him a short question, which would determine me as to the manner of executing some business, to be carried to him that morning, I enquired of Mr. Kidd if he was then occupied with any particular person, and I was answered, that the President was every moment expecting some gentlemen. Accordingly I turned to the office, and, at the appointed hour, called at the President's. I desired the servant who attended at the door to tell the President that I was come. But upon being informed that Mr. Wolcott and Col. Pickering had been there for some time, I went up stairs, and began to think the Steward had committed a mistake. I supposed that a consultation with the heads of departments had been intended to be held by the President early in the day, and that it might be proper for me to explain the cause of my delay; but when I entered the President's room, he, with great formality, rose from his chair, and Messrs. Wolcott and Pickering were also marked in their efforts to a like formality. I therefore resolved to wait for the unfolding of this mysterious appearance. Very few words passed between the President and myself; and those which fell from him shewed plainly to me that he wished to hurry to something else. Immediately afterwards he put his hand into his pocket, and, pulling out a large letter, said something of this nature: "Mr. Randolph! here is a letter, which I desire you to read, and make such explanations as you choose." I took it, and found it to be a letter written in French by Mr. Fauchet, on about fifteen pages of large paper. On reading the letter, I perceived that two of the most material papers, which were called the dispatches No. 3 and 6, were not with it. I observed to the President, that I presumed the letter to be an intercepted one. He nodded his head," &c.

On this occasion, it seems, the President requested Messrs. Wolcott and Pickering to interrogate Mr. Randolph; which, although Mr. Wolcott put only one question to him, of no very material concern, so dissatisfied him, that he retired immediately to the Secretary's office, locked up his apartments in *statu*

quo, delivered the key to the messenger of the department, and accompanied it with the resignation of his office.

As M. Fauchet, the French Minister, however, had left Philadelphia on his way to France, and was yet unembarked at Rhode Island, Mr. Randolph set out thither immediately, in order to procure from him an explanation of certain ambiguous expressions, which seemed to attach to him a criminal construction; and, after his return from Rhode Island, he returned to his native state, Virginia, where he has resumed the profession of a lawyer with his wonted success.

It will be unnecessary to tire the public patience with Mr. Randolph's vindication, or the detail of investigation with which this transaction was accompanied. Our plan does not admit of such lengthy detail as a full illustration of this subject would demand. We are, therefore, to refer them to the American State Papers for the dispatches alluded to.

M.

MR. PAUL SANDBY.

THE works of every landscape painter must necessarily receive a strong tincture from the place where he made his early studies. In Watteau's pictures there is much to admire, but as he formed his taste upon the gardens of the Thuilleries, and the clipped hedges or rather green walls in the villas that surround the metropolis of France, where

“ Grove

"Grove nods at grove, each alley has a brother,
And half the platform just reflects the other,"

he has sometimes given us *nature in a masquerade habit*. All this might originate in the place where he made his early studies abounding in this fantastic scenery—but be that as it may, with what a contrast are we presented in the works of Mr. Sandby, whose studies have embraced the whole circle of picturesque nature, from the shrub that blossoms in the hedge-row to the poplar that glitters in the glade,—from the nodding beech, *that wreathes its old fantastic roots so high*, to the majestic oak that towers on the summit of the mountain,—from the cultured vale, waving with yellow grain, to the tremendous rock,

———"Whose lofty brow,
Frowns o'er the foaming flood below."

From the frequent contemplation of this variety of scenery, a variety with which Great Britain abounds, he has formed a style peculiarly his own, and peculiarly English, and, among the artists and amateurs of this country, deservedly holds a high character for taste and talent.

Paul Sandby is descended from a branch of the family of Sandby, of Babworth, in Nottinghamshire, and was born at Nottingham, in the year 1732. In the year 1746 he came to London, and having an early bias towards the arts, got introduced into the drawing room at the Tower.

When he had been there about two years, the late William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, who had previously

previously taken a *cursor view* of Scotland, thinking it proper to have an *actual survey* made of the Highlands, young Sandby was appointed draughtsman, under the inspection of Mr. David Watson. With this gentleman he travelled through the north and western parts of that most romantic country, and made many sketches from the stupendous and terrific scenery with which it abounds.* This may be considered as Mr. Sandby's first academy, and though rude, it was grand; it was nature in her wildest mood, and the point in which he inspected it gave to him that power which he so eminently possesses, of delineating those broad and striking masses of light and shadow which have marked his works; for, without neglecting the smallest objects, you see the great aim of the artist has been to give that general appearance of nature which separates the drawings of the landscape painter from those of the botanist.

These drawings, excellent as they were, when we consider the age of the artist, could only be considered as the amusements of his leisure hours, for drawing of plans abounding in straight lines was the leading object of his tour, and so dry and uninteresting a study being neither congenial to his taste, nor worthy of his talents, he, in the year 1752, quitted the service of the survey, and resided with his brother, the late Mr. Thomas Sandby, at Windsor. During his continuance in this place, he took more

* From these first lines of genius he made a number of small etchings, which, on his return to London, he sold to Messrs. Ryland and Bryce, who published them in a folio volume.

than seventy views of Windsor and Eton. This gave him an introduction to that beautiful style of architecture improperly denominated Gothic, and the manner in which he treated it gave so picturesque an effect to these landscapes, that Sir Joseph Banks purchased them all at a very liberal price.

Mr. Sandby had soon after the honour of being one of this gentleman's party, in a tour through North and South Wales, and made a great number of sketches from remarkable scenes, castles, seats, &c. under the patronage of the late Sir Watkin Williams Wynne. He afterwards took many more views from scenes in the same country, which, with those before-mentioned, he transferred to copper-plates, and made several sets of prints in imitation of drawings in bistre or Indian ink. The first hint of the process by which this effect is given to an engraving, we have been told Mr. Sandby received from the honourable Charles Greville, whose taste and judgment in every branch of polite art is too well known to need this tribute. Profiting by this hint, Mr. Sandby has so far improved upon it, as to bring the captivating art of *aquatinta* to a degree of perfection never before known in this or any other country.

These being before the public, will, to those who have not seen the drawings, give a good idea of the manner of the artist. They unite with a degree of individuality, which renders them mirrors of the places represented, a force, clearness, transparency, and picturesque effect, which has been rarely attained by any artist of any period. The views are gene-

rally such as interest either the lover of rural scenery or ancient architecture. The points of view in which they are taken are generally well chosen ; and their value increases from the bridges, castles, abbeys, and other monuments of ancient days from which they are copied, being mouldering to dust, or annually destroyed by the ruthless devastations of innovation, or the endless variations of modern taste.

About the year 1753, Mr. Sandby and several other members of an academy who met at what had been previously Roubilliac, the statuary's workshop, in St. Martin's-lane, wishing to extend their plan, and establish a society on a broader basis, held several meetings, for the purpose of making new regulations, &c. Concerning these regulations, it may be supposed, there were variety of opinions ; but Hogarth, who was one of the members, and who deservedly held a very high rank in the arts, disapproved of them all, and wished the Society to remain as it then was. He thought that enlarging the number of students would induce a crowd of young men to quit more profitable pursuits, neglect what might be more suitable to their talents, and introduce to the practice of the arts more professors than the arts would support.

This naturally involved him in many disputes with his brother artists, and as these disputes were not always conducted with philosophic calmness, the satirist sometimes said things that his opponents deemed rather too severe for the occasion. On the pub-

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lication of the Analysis of Beauty, they recriminated with interest.

Among the prints which were then published to ridicule his *system, line of beauty, &c.* are six or eight from the brain of Mr. Sandby,* who was then a very young man, and has, we have been told, since declared, that had he known Mr. Hogarth's merit *then* as well as he does *now*, he would on no account have drawn a line which might tend to his dispraise.

On the institution of the Royal Academy, Mr. Sandby was elected a Royal Academician.

By the recommendation of the Duke of Grafton, the Marquis of Granby, in the year 1768, appointed him chief drawing-master of the Royal Academy at Woolwich, which office he still holds with great honour to himself, and advantage to the institution; and it must afford him a high gratification to see many able and distinguished draughtsmen among the officers of artillery and corps of engineers, who have been formed under his instructions.

His industry has been as remarkable as his genius; the number of his drawings, disseminated through the

* A list of the prints and description of the objects of the satire, &c. as also Hogarth's objections to the institution of a Royal Academy, is in the third volume of *Hogarth Illustrated*, compiled from Hogarth's manuscripts by John Ireland.

The print representing the burning of the Temple of Diana at Ephesus, is a night scene, and enriched with cypress-trees, capitals, well formed vases, and superb edifices, designed in a good taste, and etched with a spirit and effect that we have rarely seen equalled.

cabinets of the amateurs of the arts, has been immense. To particularize any of his productions, would be throwing a degree of neglect on those omitted. Their merit is of a superior kind, and the scenery he delineates is, in many cases, not merely an address to the eye, but an appeal to the mind. The towering, though almost tottering battlements of the baronial castle display dignity in ruins, and shew the instability of all human grandeur. The mouldering fragments of the ivy-mantled abbey, venerable even in decay, must bring to our recollection the reverential awe with which they were once contemplated; for, as it is well observed by Horace Walpole, when we enter a gothic cathedral, we do not ask ourselves who was the builder, but what was the religion of the country?

The views that he has taken of our more modern mansions are, generally speaking, picturesque, and invariably correct. They will be to future ages what the ancient ruins before-mentioned are to this, A MIRROR OF THINGS THAT WERE.

The landscapes which he has designed from fancy beam with taste and talent. We believe he has occasionally painted in oil, but never have seen any of his productions in this walk, except a picture from Gray's poem of the Bard, which, we were told, was painted at an early period of his life, and which has great merit.

MR. JOHN CLERK.

JOHN CLERK, Esq. of Eldin, is a younger son of Sir John Clerk, of Pennycuik, in the county of Mid Lothian. Of the father we know but little: he was a Baron of Exchequer, and one of the Commissioners for negotiating the Union between Scotland and England. Mr. Pinkerton, in his late work, informs us, that he was a person of great erudition, and a profound antiquary. To the first volume of the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh* there is prefixed a history of its origin and institution, and from it we learn, that Sir John and Dr. John Clerk, a physician of great eminence, were the first vice-presidents of that learned body, then bearing the title of *The Society for improving Arts and Sciences*, or more generally distinguished by the name of *The Philosophical Society of Edinburgh*.

Mr. Clerk being originally intended for the medical line, was sent to the university of Edinburgh; but a predominant inclination to a military and naval life induced him to renounce his studies. We cannot ascertain what were his pursuits for several subsequent years, but are inclined to conjecture that they were of a desultory nature. As, however, his literary work is the reputed production of a man *practically* unacquainted with maritime matters, his wish to enter the navy must have been counteracted, probably, by the intervention of his friends. Whether a predilection for the army, which had proved fatal to a
great

great many of his relatives, finally led him into that service, we know not; neither is it of essential consequence to ascertain. He latterly retired to the country, and bestowed his whole attention on an extensive coal-work which he possessed.

In this occupation Mr. Clerk had ample opportunity to cultivate the strong mechanical genius with which he was endowed. The large scale on which the engines necessary in working coal-mines are generally constructed, was happily adapted, especially when seconded by the prospect of temporal benefits, to improve the individual who was otherwise fond of investigating the laws of mechanism. One successful essay succeeded another, and even the failure of a plan suggested new and more fortunate modes of operation. In fine, his reputation in this respect is such, that he has been consulted in the management of every colliery in Scotland; and the proprietors, who reposed on his judgment, have had solid reason to congratulate themselves on their confidence.

In a note to his Introduction to the Essay on Naval Tactics, Mr. Clerk informs us, that it was written in 1781, immediately after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis's army, the consequence of Admiral Greaves's unsuccessful rencounter with the French fleet off the mouth of the Chesapeak. Only a few copies of it, however, were printed at that time, and distributed among his friends. It is said, that he was earnestly requested to delay publication on the plea that his plan ought not to be divulged to the world, but privately communicated to the Board of Admi-

rally; and that when this advice was complied with, the communication met with a cold reception.

But whatever may have been the fate of Mr. Clerk's application to the Admiralty, the work attracted the attention of several eminent officers, and was honoured with their approbation. In the action with the Dutch fleet, in 1798, Admiral Duncan followed the plan laid down in the Essay; and, on his return, personally expressed his obligations to the author. Among others, the celebrated Rodney is known to have held it in high estimation; and we gather from a note in vol. 2, that his Lordship sent the author a copy of vol. 1. (printed in 1782) with marginal strictures in his own hand-writing. They arrived too late to be introduced in that volume on its re-appearance in 1790, but it is hoped Mr. Clerk will, on the first opportunity, communicate the Admiral's remarks, as they must doubtless form a valuable commentary on his own ingenious production. With how much avidity do we frequently search for unimportant *scholia* on some ancient poet? But with how much greater earnestness ought we to covet *scholia* on a work which interests our naval glory as a nation?

In 1790, part i. was published in one quarto volume, under the title of *An Essay on Naval Tactics, systematical and historical, with explanatory Plates*. The work is divided into four parts, and each of these is subdivided into sections: the first, comprising the whole of vol. 1. treats of *the attack from the windward*. In 1797, vol. 2. containing the three other parts, was published; part ii. treating of *the attack*
of

of fleets from the leeward; part iii. being an historical sketch of naval tactics; and part iv. being a similar sketch during the year 1782, which was the last year of the American war.

As Mr. Clerk has employed mathematical demonstration and diagrams to illustrate and establish general theorems, and then put them to the test by applying them to real engagements, his plan, and its execution, are within the conception of the most ordinary capacity. Remarkable for a happy mode of illustration, free from obscurity and prolixity, he never entangles his reader amidst the uncouth phraseology of seafaring men, nor by any devious excursions from the direct line leading to his general corollary. We do not recollect any British writer who has written on maritime affairs, and used demonstration in illustrating his subject; but writings of this nature have been particularly numerous in France, and not unfrequent in Holland. To enumerate these would be a superfluous task; but we may mention a work by the Viscount de Grenier, rear-admiral in the French navy, entitled, *l'Art de la Guerre sur Mer*, &c. the Art of War at Sea, or Naval Tactics reduced to new Principles, 4to. with Plates, Paris, 1787.

The best performance, however, on this subject is *The Manœvrer, or Skilful Seaman*, being an essay on the theory and practice of the various movements of a ship at sea, as well as of naval evolutions in general, with plates.* This soientific though elementary

* This work and the preceding were translated by the Chevalier de Sauseuil, knight of the most noble order of St. Philip,

work is the production of Mr. Bourdé de Villehuet, and held in the highest estimation in France. It is divided into four parts. The three first are particularly devoted to the construction of the different parts of a ship, and the art of managing her. In the first of these he treats of the actions of fluids on the surfaces of solid bodies, their effects when the bodies are motive by percussion, the centres of gravity and gyration of bodies, the action of the wind on a ship's sails individually and collectively, and of the water on her rudder, the figure, size, and position of every article of her apparel. In the second he adduces reasons for all the evolutions to be performed by a ship, points out their nature and conduct in every probable situation, gives directions for chasing, traces the curve of pursuit, of which we shall afterwards have occasion to speak, and concludes with rules for boarding and opposing it. The third part relates to masting, careening, sheathing, ballasting, lading, and rigging; and the fourth is an *Essay on Naval Evolutions*, describing the division of fleets, orders of convoys, sailing, battle, and retreat, with methods of manœuvring in all these various cases, in bringing to action, avoiding it, doubling on an enemy, forcing his line, or for any other supposable purpose. We are led, however, from internal evidence and a reference to dates, to conclude, that Mr. Clerk had not seen this very valuable work.

&c. and published in 1788, (Hooper, London) with many interesting notes by an English officer, pointing out the difference in the practice of the English and French navies.

It

It is remarkable, observes our author in the introduction to vol. 1, that during the two last wars, as well as the present (the American war), when single ships or a few only encountered, British sailors, if not victorious on every occasion, never failed to exhibit instances of skilful seamanship and intrepidity: but when a number were formed in line of battle, in no instance has any thing memorable been achieved. Some have ascribed this to the superior construction of the enemy's ships, which thus had it in their power to avoid an engagement by out-sailing ours. Others have insinuated that our seamen, whatever may have been their former character, were in no respect preferable to those of our rivals. Mr. Clerk's purpose is to shew that the want of success in the *then late* great sea-fights ought not to be attributed either to any abatement of spirit in our men, or even to any fault in the construction of our shipping. We say *then late*, because, in the succeeding war, our naval glory soared above all Greek, above all Roman fame:—and it did so by an invariable adherence to the maxims unfolded in our author's treatise, which has become the vade-mecum of every officer, from the mishipman to the Lord High Admiral.

After the many petty principalities of Europe were melted down into extensive kingdoms, the acquisition of internal tranquillity consolidated their strength, and enabled them to form standing armies and well appointed navies. Before the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the maritime operations of England do not merit to be recorded, and even then might have
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proved too inconsiderable to attract the notice of the historian, if the national energy had not been stimulated to exertion by the hostile aggression of Spain. The destruction of the celebrated Armada is an immortal trait of the skill and heroism of Englishmen. Yet it must be acknowledged that the Spaniard sustained the greatest damage from the elements: if these had been favourable, the final issue of the expedition might have proved not so fortunate to this country, and certainly not so disastrous to the enemy. Britain, divided into two independent kingdoms, had been harassed by mutual jealousies and rancorous hostility. She had not leisure to avail herself of that law which nature has assigned her insular situation, namely, that to communicate with the rest of the world, and to protect her commerce, she must have numerous ships and sailors; on all sides on which the ocean was to be crossed. The temperament of the times was not auspicious to maritime pursuits. The age of chivalry had passed away, and that of religious bigotry commenced: but it was not until the first years of the present century that the age or spirit of commerce, the grand nursery of hardy seamen, began to develope itself.

In their terrible conflicts with the Dutch during the last century, the English, whether equal or inferior in number, victorious or worsted, evinced the most enthusiastic courage; and, it must be owned, that the enemy were not deficient in valour or nautical knowledge. We still read with astonishment of battles fought in this period by numbers ranged on
each

each side, that are unknown in later times ; of battles continuing for two, and even three days, and rendered remarkable by the most daring acts of prowess. The success against the far-famed Armada laid the foundation of that proud, intrepid spirit which distinguishes our navy, and which was then infused into the people. Occasionally depressed by inglorious engagements, the former habitual impression continued, nevertheless, gradually progressive, until at present, favoured by a combination of circumstances, it is ingrafted in the very nature of English sailors, and their superiority has become so predominant, that they are not inaptly denominated the *gods of the ocean*. Formerly, however, our fleets, when tried on a great scale, were far from being so successful as the nation was led to expect from their fortune in smaller conflicts ; on those occasions the enemy either escaped without sustaining any important injury, or contended with honour. By a train of reflections approximating to these, our author was led to infer, that the want of success, palpable incapacity apart, must have originated from the enemy's having acquired a superior knowledge, and adopted some new system of managing great fleets, either not known, or not sufficiently attended to by us ; or that we had persisted in following antiquated rules, which experience and later improvement ought to have rejected. This superiority on the part of the French may not, perhaps, have operated any farther than in enabling them to avoid an action, or select a favourable position ; but, as Mr. Clerk justly observes, “ though to be com-
“ pletely

“ pletely victorious cannot always be in our power,
“ to be constantly baffled, and denied the satisfaction
“ of retaliation, almost on every occasion, is not only
“ shameful, but, in truth, has been the cause of our
“ late misfortunes.”

In section 1. he treats of the method of attack from windward, in the case of single ships ; and, in the next, draws a comparison of the effects of shot directed against the rigging, with its effects when directed against the hull.

Although Mr. Clerk's Essay be a work of the first importance to this country, we cannot follow him minutely ; and, indeed, any further remarks would require to be illustrated by plates. In the third and fourth sections, he gives rules for bringing fleets into action from windward, and supports them by a multiplicity of examples from our naval history, not only in cases where the British fleets were to windward, but also where the French, by keeping their fleets to windward, have shewn a dislike, both of making the attack themselves, and of suffering the British fleet to approach them. The result of his observations is, that the attack had been invariably made by a long extended line, generally from the windward quarter, and by steering every individual ship of that line upon her opposite of the enemy,* but more particularly the ships in the van ; that this mode of attack had proved fatal in every attempt, and our ships been so disabled and ill-supported, that the enemy were

* Or, as the sailors say, *Every man his bird.*

permitted not only to make sail and leave us, but, in passing, to pour in the fire of their whole line on our van, without a possibility of retaliation on our part; and that it would seem an idea had been formed, by stopping the van, of taking, destroying, or disabling the whole of the enemy's line, a measure which the event had shewn to be impracticable. Besides, Was not, asks our author, such an idea contradictory to the general complaint of the deficiency of our ships in point of sailing? for if this deficiency existed, would it not have been more natural, in chasing the enemy, to make sure of the slowest sailing vessels in the rear, than to attempt to get up with the swiftest ships in the van?

He next proceeds to give his mode of attack from windward on the rear of the enemy, more particularly on his three sternmost ships, and where the enemy tacks or wears his fleet to support them, or endeavours to avoid the attack on his rear, by wearing and passing on contrary tacks to leeward. Afterwards he traces the effect and consequences of the wind shifting during the attack from the windward, in all probable cases. Every individual instance is reduced to demonstration, and illustrated by figures. The first volume concludes with an appendix, in which he investigates Sir George Pocock's engagement with the French fleet under M. D'Aché, in the East Indies, 1758, and very properly reprobates the mode of attack (still van after van) by what is styled the curve of pursuit, as even more injurious than by the lashing form, which he had previously exploded.

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The second volume commences with the attacks of fleets from leeward, and treats of fleets working to windward, of the simple attack, cross attack, with various examples of cutting the enemy's line in particular cases, and of the perpendicular attack, or attack at right angles. We have already mentioned that parts iii. and iv. contain an historical sketch of naval tactics, in the course of which the author applies his principles to investigate all our memorable sea-fights, of which we possess any authentic detailed account, until the close of the American war. We hope he will extend his labours to the conclusion of the late war; and, as he had the sagacity to foresee our puissance and success confirm his tenets, by narrating the fortunate effects of their practice.

Singular it was, that any person could except to Mr. Clerk's making public his work; and still more so, that a writer of the Monthly Review should have adopted such an unfounded opinion, unless we are to suppose, and indeed appearances warrant the supposition, that the critic (on the first volume) saved himself from the task of reading the book, by an unqualified charge of improper and unseasonable publication. *Aliquando bonus dormitat Homerus.* Mr. Clerk's primary object is to point out the most approved mode of acting to advantage, when the whole of an enemy's fleet cannot be overtaken, and to shew the manner of approaching them, agreeably to the laws of naval tactics. The French cannot derive any improper information from this: no manœuvre is necessary to bring us to action: "*we always are ready,*" is the burden

burden of our national song ; “ *and if they won't fight us, what can we do more ?* ”

It was not to be supposed that the active genius of Mr. Clerk would rest satisfied with the two volumes he has already published on nautical science. He has completed, if our information be correct, a work on ship-building, and on the true and perfect model of a sailing vessel. Thus having stood forth, at the close of the American war, to defend the character of our seamen, by ascribing to them superior qualifications inherent in their nature, and having pointed out the most approved modes of employing these qualifications, he wishes also to deprive the enemy of any advantage in the better construction of their vessels. The skill of the French ship-builders is esteemed throughout Europe ; and so great is their reputation among ourselves, notwithstanding national prejudices, that there is not a British officer who does not covet the command of a prize-ship, taken from them, in preference to a British-built vessel, and that such prizes are always made the chasing ships. Some time ago a very respectable society was formed in London, under the patronage of several noblemen and other persons of distinction and public spirit, with a view to cultivate the improvement of naval architecture in all its branches. It owes its existence chiefly to the late Mr. Sewell, of Cornhill, who, in 1791, published a small collection of papers on naval architecture, originally communicated through the channel of the *European Magazine*. The munificence of the members enabled the Society to offer not only honorary,
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but pecuniary rewards for every useful invention or discovery ; even sums of twenty, thirty, and a hundred guineas. Every well-wisher to his country must wish success to so laudable an institution.

While British ships are constructed by precedent, and not by science ; while we prefer borrowing improvements rather than originating them, it is apparent that France must have the advantage of us by means of her naval seminaries ; and may, under a judicious administration, convert her knowledge of ship-building into an important branch of commerce on the return of peace. Books on marine architecture are very numerous in that country, We have already particularized M. Bourdé's valuable performance ; and we will conclude with recommending two others to the attention of our countrymen. The first of these is *Traité Elementaire de la Construction des Vaisseaux*, &c. An elementary Treatise on the Construction of Vessels, quarto, Paris, 1787. The author, M. Vial du Clairbois, engineer and builder in ordinary to the marine, has embellished his work with twenty large copper-plates, the designs being taken by M. de Gay, sub-engineer, with such scrupulous exactness, that not even a bolt is omitted or misplaced. It was originally composed for the use of the students of the Marine School, and published by order of Marshall de Castries, Minister and Secretary of State for the Marine Department.

The other of these works is *Traité Pratique du Grément*, &c. A practical Treatise on the Rigging of Ships of War, and other sailing Vessels, by M. Lescallier,

Lescallier, Commissary General of the Colonies, &c. This performance was published in 1791, in two volumes quarto, with plates, by order of the King, for the instruction of those intended for the sea service. It is an useful elementary book ; but we regret that the author confined himself to mere didactic information, without entering upon speculative points, mathematical deduction, and the establishment of some permanent theory. Citizen Lescallier is, we believe, the present maritime prefect at L'Orient, and one of Bonaparte's Counsellors of State in ordinary service.

Much as we esteem Mr. Clerk's Essay, taken by itself, we cannot help remarking, that its merit is still more increased, when it is considered as the production of a man, whose own genius and reflection, unaided by practice, enabled him to accomplish it. He has been described to us as possessing all those fair qualities, which are commonly implied by the character of a plain honest country gentleman ; as the father of a numerous family, all arrived at years of maturity ; and as still healthy, although advanced in life, being about seventy years of age. Long may he live to enjoy his reputation of self-taught skill and eminence in nautical science ; and—we had almost said—that honour which national gratitude bestows ; but our present administration are lavish only in gratifying their projects of political ambition. R.

MRS. ROBINSON.*

AMONG the many illustrious names of British females, which have graced the annals of literature, that of Mary Robinson will ever hold a distinguished rank.

This lady was born on the 27th of November, 1758, at College Green, Bristol. In the male line she was descended from a respectable Irish family, the original name of which was M'Dermott. Her great-grandfather changed it to that of Darby for an estate in Ireland. Her father, who was a man of strong mind, high spirit, and great personal intrepidity, was born in America. Her mother was descended from the respectable family of Seys, of Boverton Castle, Glamorganshire.

For the first rudiments of knowledge Mrs. Robinson was indebted to the tuition of the Misses More, sisters to the celebrated lady of that name, whose talents have so largely contributed to the entertainment and improvement of the public.

During the early days of her childhood, the parents of Mrs. Robinson enjoyed a state of uninterrupted happiness and prosperity. Scarcely, however, had

* Since the publication of the former edition of this volume, Mrs. Robinson has retired from the stage of life. She has bequeathed to the world, in "*her own Memoirs*," a tale of truth, replete with interest and instruction. From these '*Memoirs*' the present article is faithfully abridged.—*Editor*.

she obtained her ninth year, when a change took place as sudden and as unfortunate. Her father had long fostered in his mind a scheme of establishing a whale fishery on the coast of Labrador, and of civilizing the Esquimaux Indians, in order to employ them in the extensive undertaking. Hazardous and wild as this plan appeared to his wife, and his friends, Mr. Darby persevered in his resolution to prosecute it, and actually obtained the approbation and encouragement of some of the leading men at that time in power, who promoted his designs. To facilitate the execution of his plan, he deemed it necessary to reside at least two years in America. His wife felt an invincible antipathy to the sea, and of course heard his determination with horror. The pleadings of affection, of reason, and prudence, against his voyage were alike ineffectual, and he sailed for America.

The issue of this rash enterprise proved quite as unfortunate as it was predicted. Mr. Darby had embarked in it his whole fortune, and it failed. The noble patrons of his plan deceived him in their assurances of marine protection, and the island of promise became a scene of desolation: the Indians rose in a body, burnt his settlement, murdered many of his people, and turned the produce of their toil adrift on the merciless ocean. This great misfortune was followed by other commercial losses, and the family of this too enterprising man were, in consequence, reduced from a state of affluence and luxury to a very different condition. Mrs. Darby, her young daughter, and a son still younger, quitted Bristol for Lon-

don, and, for the first time, after an absence of three years, had an interview with her husband at his lodgings in Spring Gardens.

Soon after their arrival in the metropolis, Mrs. Robinson and her brother were placed at a school at Chelsea.

At this seminary Mrs. Robinson acquired, as she herself expresses it, "*all that she ever learned*;" and she acquired it from a female of the most extraordinary character. She was the mistress of the school; her name was Meribah Lorrington. Her father, whose name was Hull, had, from her infancy, been the master of an academy at Earl's Court, near Fulham; and having soon after marriage lost his wife, he resolved to bestow on his daughter a masculine education. Meribah was early instructed in classical knowledge, as well in all the modern accomplishments. She was mistress of the Latin, French, and Italian languages; was a perfect arithmetician and astronomer, and possessed the art of painting on silk to a degree of exquisite perfection. But alas! with all these advantages, she was addicted to the vice of intoxication, which at times so completely debased her faculties, as to deprive her of every mental and corporeal power. Under the care of this extraordinary woman Mrs. Robinson remained more than twelve months, and received from her, during her intervals of sobriety, the most excellent instruction. It was at this school that Mrs. Robinson made her first offering to the Muses; here she wrote verses and recited at the age of twelve years. It was also during
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her residence at this school, that she received the first tribute of that admiration which her uncommonly beautiful and intelligent countenance at a subsequent period so universally inspired. A captain in the British navy, a friend of her father, saw her when on a visit to her mother, who lodged in the neighbourhood of the school, and proposed to marry her. "How old do you think my daughter?" enquired Mrs. Darby.—"About sixteen," replied the captain. She smiled, and assured him that Miss Darby was not quite thirteen. He appeared to doubt; and when again assured of the fact, he took leave with evident regret; but not without expressing a hope that, at his return from a two years voyage on which he was going, he should still find Miss Darby disengaged. He sailed—his ship foundered at sea, and he perished; From Mrs. Lorrington's school, which was broken up through the notorious vice of that singular woman,* Mrs. Robinson was removed to a seminary at Battersea, under the care of a Mrs. Leigh, a very sensible and accomplished woman, where, however, she remained only a short time, when apprehension of pecuniary distress induced her mother to remove her.

Mrs. Darby had projected a plan for opening a little school, in which her daughter's assistance was requisite; for Mr. Darby still persevered in his quixotic scheme of a Labrador fishery, and was long absent from Europe without sending the smallest re-

* This accomplished, but depraved woman died in Chelsea workhouse, the martyr of a premature decay, in consequence of her habits of intoxication.

mittance to his wife. The necessary arrangements for opening the school were scarcely made, however, when he arrived from America, and expressed the utmost dissatisfaction at the prudent measures which Mrs. Darby had adopted, as they exposed the poverty which his imprudence had caused, and which his pride was desirous to conceal. In compliance, therefore, with the positive commands of her husband, Mrs. Darby was compelled to break up her establishment, and her daughter went to finish her education at Oxford-house, Mary-le-bone. She was then about fifteen years old, but remarkably tall for her age; her figure was majestic, and her face uncommonly beautiful.

The dancing-master at Oxford House, Mr. Hussey, was then ballet-master of Covent Garden Theatre, and Mrs. Hervey, the governess, mentioned Miss Darby to that gentleman, as a young lady who possessed an extraordinary genius for dramatic performances.

At this time Mr. Darby was again absent from England, and the pecuniary embarrassments of his wife were daily increasing. In this situation of her affairs she listened to the suggestions of Mrs. Hervey respecting the propriety of her daughter's appearance upon the stage; and, after a mature deliberation on the dangers and the advantages of such a proceeding, she at length consented that a trial of her theatrical abilities might be made. In consequence of this determination Miss Darby was introduced, first to Mr. Hull, of Covent Garden Theatre, and afterwards to
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Mr. Garrick. The British Roscius immediately discerned the talents of the young novice, and became her enthusiastic admirer, instructor, and patron. He was delighted with every thing she did. He would sometimes dance a minuet with her, sometimes listen to her songs, but was peculiarly pleased with the tone of her voice, which he frequently observed, closely resembled that of Mrs. Cibber. The character which this undoubted judge of the art decided upon as the best adapted to display the talents of his *élève*, consistently with her extreme youthfulness, was Cordelia, and Garrick himself was to have been the Lear.

It was however decreed, that she should appear on the great theatre of the world in the real character of a bride, before she assumed the fictitious appearances of the mimic scene. The limits necessarily prescribed to this memoir prevent the writer from even glancing at that most interesting and most delicate part of Mrs. Robinson's life, which immediately preceded and followed her union with Mr. Robinson. She herself has told us, that her marriage with this gentleman, then a student of the law, was the effect of maternal solicitude, and not of any favourable prepossession which she felt for him, who had sought and gained rather the approbation of her mother than herself. Mrs. Darby had persuaded herself that Mr. Robinson possessed a large estate in his own right, besides having considerable expectancies from a rich uncle. It proved, however, that his wealth consisted almost wholly of his expectations from his uncle, and these

expectations were totally swept away on the first presentation of Mrs. Robinson to this uncle, who resided at Tregunter, in South Wales. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson took a journey to this old gentleman, whose name was Harris; and, during their short visit to him, Mrs. Robinson gave birth to her first child, the present accomplished Miss Robinson. The nature of the reception which the young couple met with from this uncle may be easily imagined by the reader, when he learns, that upon the first sight of their infant, then only two days old, he thus addressed the mother in the presence of the nurse. "Well, and what do you mean to do with your child?"—She made no answer.—"I will tell you," added he; "tie it to your back and work for it.—Prison doors are open," continued he, "Tom will die in a gaol; and what is to become of you?" So cool and unfriendly a reception did they receive from this uncle, that they quitted his roof as soon as possible, and returned to the metropolis. Pecuniary difficulties now pressed heavily upon Mr. Robinson. He was even arrested, on his journey from Wales, by one of his earliest friends.

On their arrival in the metropolis, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson lodged for a short time near Berner's-street, until the accumulated embarrassments of the former consigned him at length to a prison. During fifteen months captivity his faithful wife never for an hour forsook him, except upon occasional and short visits to the amiable Duchess of Devonshire, who had been informed of her situation by her brother, and who,
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with that liberality which has uniformly characterized her life, kindly ameliorated the miseries of so young a victim of domestic woe. At length Mr. Robinson was released from confinement, and the prison doors were thrown open to his wife and child; but even then no means of subsistence presented themselves. Mr. Robinson was prevented from practising as an attorney, not having completed the articles of his clerkship. In this dilemma Mrs. Robinson once more turned her thoughts to the stage, and with the flattering approbation of her former patron, Mr. Garrick, and with the additional encouragement of Mr. Sheridan and other critics, she made her *debut* on the boards of Drury Lane Theatre, in the character of Juliet.

Her success with the public was equal to the encouragement of her private friends. In Juliet, Ophelia, Rosalind, Imogen, Viola, Statira, Perdita, and other characters of the same cast, she delighted the town for two successive seasons, and won universal admiration by the uncommon beauty of her person, and the grace and elegance of her person and manners. It was in the last named character, Perdita, that she attracted the notice and captivated the affection of an illustrious personage.

The consequences of this admiration are in the recollection of every reader. It is impossible to give place, in these limited pages, to the very just and mature sentiments with which Mrs. Robinson, in her own Memoirs, prefaces her narrative of the circumstances to which we allude. It is sufficient to ob-

serve, that after many alternations of feeling, an interview with her royal lover was consented to by Mrs. Robinson; and we cannot do more strict justice either to the public, or to the memory of her whose interesting life we are detailing, than by inserting, *verbatim*, her own account of that interview, as contained in an extract from a letter to a friend, written by herself in the year 1783.

“ At length an evening was fixed for this long dreaded interview. Lord Malden and myself dined at the inn on the island between Kew and Brentford. We waited the signal for crossing the river in a boat which had been engaged for the purpose. Heaven can witness how many conflicts my agitated heart endured at this most important moment! I admired the Prince; I felt grateful for his affection. He was the most engaging of created beings. I had corresponded with him during many months, and his eloquent letters, the exquisite sensibility which breathed through every line, his ardent professions of adoration, had combined to shake my feeble resolution. The handkerchief was waved on the opposite shore; but the signal was, by the dusk of the evening, rendered almost imperceptible. Lord Malden took my hand, I stepped into the boat, and in a few minutes we landed before the iron gates of old Kew palace. The interview was but of a moment. The Prince of Wales and the Duke of York (then Bishop of Osnaburg) were walking down the avenue. They hastened to meet us. A few words, and those scarcely articulate, were uttered by the Prince, when a noise of people approaching from the palace startled us. The moon was now rising; and the idea of being overheard, or of his Royal Highness being seen out at so unusual an hour, terrified the whole group. After a few more words of the most affectionate nature uttered by the Prince, we parted, and Lord Malden and myself returned to the island. The Prince never quitted the avenue, nor the presence of the Duke of York, during the whole of this short meeting. Alas! my friend, if my mind was before influenced by esteem, it was now awakened to the most enthusiastic

enthusiastic admiration. The rank of the Prince no longer chilled into awe that being, who now considered him as the lover and the friend. The graces of his person, the irresistible sweetness of his smile, the tenderness of his melodious yet manly voice, will be remembered by me till every vision of this charming scene shall be forgotten.

“Many and frequent were the interviews which afterwards took place at this romantic spot; our walks sometimes continued till past midnight, the Duke of York and Lord Malden were always of the party, our conversation was composed of general topics. The Prince had from his infancy been wholly secluded, and naturally took much pleasure in conversing about the busy world, its manners and pursuits, characters and scenery. Nothing could be more delightful or more rational than our midnight perambulations. I always wore a dark coloured habit; the rest of our party generally wrapped themselves in great coats to disguise them, excepting the Duke of York, who almost universally alarmed us by the display of a *buff* coat, the most conspicuous colour he could have selected for an adventure of this nature. The polished and fascinating ingenuousness of his Royal Highness’s manners contributed not a little to enliven our *promenades*. He sung with exquisite taste; and the tones of his voice, breaking on the silence of the night, have often appeared to my entranced senses like more than mortal melody. Often have I lamented the distance which destiny had placed between us: how would my soul have idolized such a *husband*! Alas! how often, in the ardent enthusiasm of my soul, have I formed the wish that being were *mine alone*! to whom partial millions were to look up for protection.

“The Duke of York was now on the eve of quitting the country for Hanover; the Prince was also on the point of receiving his first establishment; and the apprehension that his attachment to a married woman might injure his Royal Highness in the opinion of the world, rendered the caution which we invariably observed of the utmost importance. A considerable time elapsed in these delightful scenes of visionary happiness. The Prince’s attachment seemed to increase daily, and I considered myself as the most blest of human beings. During some
time

time we had enjoyed our meetings in the neighbourhood of Kew, and I now only looked forward to the adjusting of his Royal Highness's establishment for the public avowal of our mutual attachment.

"I had relinquished my profession. The last night of my appearance on the stage, I represented the character of Sir Harry Revel, in the comedy of 'The Miniature Picture,' written by Lady Craven;* and the Irish Widow. On entering the Green-room, I informed Mr. Moody, who played in the farce, that I should appear no more after that night; and, endeavouring to smile while I sung, I repeated,

'Oh joy to you all in full measure,
So wishes and prays Widow Brady!'

which were the last lines of my song in 'The Irish Widow.' This effort to conceal the emotion I felt on quitting a profession I enthusiastically loved, was of short duration; and I burst into tears on my appearance. My regret at recollecting that I was treading for the last time the boards where I had so often received the most gratifying testimonies of public approbation; where mental exertion had been emboldened by private worth; that I was flying from a happy certainty, perhaps to pursue the phantom disappointment, nearly overwhelmed my faculties, and for some time deprived me of the power of articulation. Fortunately, the person on the stage with me had to begin the scene, which allowed me time to collect myself. I went, however, mechanically dull through the business of the evening, and, notwithstanding the cheering expressions and applause of the audience, I was several times near fainting.

"The daily prints now indulged the malice of my enemies by the most scandalous paragraphs respecting the Prince of Wales and myself. I found it was now too late to stop the hourly augmenting torrent of abuse that was poured upon me from all quarters. Whenever I appeared in public, I was overwhelmed by the gazing of the multitude. I was frequently obliged to quit Rauehagh, owing to the crowd which staring curiosity had assembled round my box; and, even in the streets of the metro-

* Now Margravine of Anspach.

polis, I scarcely ventured to enter a shop without experiencing the greatest inconvenience. Many hours have I waited till the crowd dispersed, which surrounded my carriage, in expectation of my quitting the shop. I cannot suppress a smile at the absurdity of such proceedings, when I remember that, during nearly three seasons, I was almost every night upon the stage, and that I had then been near five years with Mr. Robinson at every fashionable place of entertainment. You, my dear Sir, in your quiet haunts of transatlantic simplicity, will find some difficulty in reconciling these things to your mind—these unaccountable instances of national absurdity. Yet, so it is. I am well assured, that were a being possessed of more than human endowments to visit this country, it would experience indifference, if not total neglect, while a less worthy mortal might be worshipped as the idol of its day, if whispered into notoriety by the comments of the multitude. But, thank Heaven! my heart was not formed in the mould of exulting effrontery. I shuddered at the gulf before me, and felt small gratification in the knowledge of having taken a step, which many, who condemned, would have been no less willing to imitate, had they been placed in the same situation.

“ Previous to my first interview with his Royal Highness, in one of his letters I was astonished to find a bond of the most solemn and binding nature, containing a promise of the sum of twenty thousand pounds, to be paid at the period of his Royal Highness’s coming of age.

“ This paper was signed by the Prince, and sealed with the royal arms. It was expressed in terms so liberal, so voluntary, so marked by true affection, that I had scarcely power to read it. My tears, excited by the most agonizing conflicts, obscured the letters, and nearly blotted out those sentiments, which will be impressed upon my mind till the latest period of my existence. Still, I felt shocked and mortified at the indelicate idea of entering into any pecuniary engagements with a Prince, on whose establishment I relied for the enjoyment of all that would render life desirable. I was surprised at receiving it; the idea of interest had never entered my mind: secure in the possession of his heart, I had in that delightful certainty counted all my fu-

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ture treasure. I had refused many splendid gifts which his Royal Highness had proposed ordering for me at Grey's and other jewellers. The Prince presented to me a few trifling ornaments, in the whole their value not exceeding one hundred guineas. Even these, on our separation, I returned to his Royal Highness through the hands of General Lake.

"The period now approached that was to destroy all the fairy visions which had filled my mind with dreams of happiness. At the moment when every thing was preparing for his Royal Highness's establishment, when I looked impatiently for the arrival of that day, in which I might behold my adored friend gracefully receiving the acclamations of his future subjects; when I might enjoy the public protection of that being for whom I gave up all, I received a letter from his Royal Highness, a cold and unkind letter—briefly informing me, that '*we must meet no more!*'

"And now, my friend, suffer me to call God to witness, that I was unconscious why this decision had taken place in his Royal Highness's mind; only two days previous to this letter being written I had seen the Prince at Kew, and his affection appeared to be boundless as it was undiminished.

"Amazed, afflicted, beyond the power of utterance, I wrote immediately to his Royal Highness, requiring an explanation. He remained silent. Again I wrote, but received no elucidation of this most cruel and extraordinary mystery. The Prince was then at Windsor. I set out, in a small pony phaeton, wretched, and unaccompanied by any one except my postillion (a child of nine years of age). It was near dark when we quitted Hyde Park Corner. On my arrival at Hounslow, the inn-keeper informed me, that every carriage which had passed the heath for the last ten nights had been attacked and rifled. I confess the idea of personal danger had no terrors for my mind in the state it then was, and the possibility of annihilation, divested of the crime of suicide, encouraged rather than diminished my determination of proceeding. We had scarcely reached the middle of the heath, when my horses were startled by the sudden appearance of a man rushing from the side of the road. The boy on perceiving him instantly spurred his pony, and, by a sudden
bound

bound of our light vehicle, the ruffian missed his grasp at the front rein. We now proceeded at full speed, while the footpad ran, endeavouring to overtake us. At length, my horses fortunately outrunning the perseverance of the assailant, we reached the first Magpie, a small inn on the heath, in safety. The alarm which, in spite of my resolution, this adventure had created, was augmented on my recollecting, for the first time, that I had then in my black stock a brilliant stud of very considerable value, which could only have been possessed by the robber by strangling the wearer.

"If my heart palpitated with joy at my escape from assassination, a circumstance soon after occurred that did not tend to quiet my emotion. This was the appearance of Mr. H. Meynel and Mrs. A*****. My foreboding soul instantly beheld a rival, and, with jealous eagerness, interpreted the hitherto inexplicable conduct of the Prince, from his having frequently expressed a wish to know that lady.

"On my arrival the Prince would not see me. My agonies were now undecipherable. I consulted with Lord Malden and the Duke of Dorset, whose honourable mind and truly disinterested friendship had, on many occasions, been exemplified towards me. They were both at a loss to divine any cause of this sudden change in the Prince's feelings. The Prince of Wales had hitherto assiduously sought opportunities to distinguish me more publicly than was prudent, in his Royal Highness's situation. This was in the month of August. On the fourth of the preceding June, I went, by his desire, into the Chamberlain's box at the birth-night ball; the distressing observation of the circle was drawn towards the part of the box in which I sat, by the marked and injudicious attentions of his Royal Highness. I had not been arrived many minutes before I witnessed a singular species of fashionable coquetry. Previous to his Highness's beginning his minuet, I perceived a woman of high rank select from the *bouquet* which she wore two rose-buds, which she gave to the Prince, as he afterwards informed me, 'emblematical of herself and him.' I observed his Royal Highness immediately beckon to a nobleman,* who has since formed

* The Earl of C.

a part

a part of his establishment, and, looking most earnestly at me, whisper a few words, at the same time presenting to him his newly acquired trophy. In a few moments Lord C. entered the Chamberlain's box, and, giving the rose-buds into my hands, informed me that he was commissioned by the Prince to do so. I placed them in my bosom, and, I confess, felt proud of the power by which I thus publicly mortified an exalted rival. His Royal Highness now avowedly distinguished me at all public places of entertainment, at the King's hunt, near Windsor, at the reviews, and at the theatres. The Prince only seemed happy in evincing his affection towards me.

"How terrible then was the change to my feelings! And I again most SOLEMNLY REPEAT, that I was totally ignorant of any JUST CAUSE for so sudden an alteration.

"My 'good-natured friends' now carefully informed me of the multitude of secret enemies who were ever employed in estranging the Prince's mind from me. So fascinating, so illustrious a lover could not fail to excite the envy of my own sex. Women of all descriptions were emulous of attracting his Royal Highness's attention. Alas! I had neither *rank* nor power to oppose such adversaries. Every engine of female malice was set in motion to destroy my repose, and every petty calumny was repeated with tenfold embellishments. Tales of the most infamous and glaring falsehood were invented, and I was again assailed by pamphlets, by paragraphs, and caricatures, and all the artillery of slander, while the only being to whom I then looked for protection, was so situated as to be unable to afford it.

"Thus perplexed, I wrote to you, my friend, and implored your advice. But you were far away; your delighted soul was absorbed in cherishing the plant of human liberty, which has since blossomed with independent splendour over your happy provinces. Eagerly did I wait for the arrival of the packet, but no answer was returned. In the anguish of my soul, I once more addressed the Prince of Wales; I complained, perhaps too vehemently, of his injustice; of the calumnies which had been by my enemies fabricated against me, of the falsehood of which he was but too sensible. I conjured him to render me justice.

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He did so; he wrote me a most eloquent letter, disclaiming the causes alleged by a calumniating world, and fully acquitting me of the charges which had been propagated to destroy me.

"I resided now in Cork-street, Burlington-gardens. The house, which was neat, but by no means splendid, had recently been fitted up for the Countess of Derby, on her separation from her lord. My situation now every hour became more irksome. The Prince still unkindly persisted in withdrawing himself from my society. I was now deeply involved in debt, which I despaired of ever having the power to discharge. I had quitted both my husband and my profession:—the retrospect was dreadful!

"My estrangement from the Prince was now the theme of public animadversion, while the newly invigorated shafts of my old enemies, the daily prints, were again hurled upon my defenceless head with tenfold fury.—The regrets of Mr. Robinson, now that he had *lost* me, became insupportable;—he constantly wrote to me in the language of unbounded affection; nor did he fail, when we met, to express his agony at our separation, and even a wish for our re-union.

"I had, at one period, resolved on returning to my profession; but some friends whom I consulted, dreaded that the public would not suffer my re-appearance on the stage. This idea intimidated me, and precluded my efforts for that independence of which my romantic credulity had robbed me. I was thus fatally induced to relinquish what would have proved an ample and honourable resource for myself and my child. My debts accumulated to near seven thousand pounds. My creditors, whose insulting illiberality could only be equalled by their unbounded impositions, hourly assailed me.

"I was, in the mean time, wholly neglected by the Prince, while the assiduities of Lord Malden daily increased. I had no other friend on whom I could rely for assistance or protection. When I say protection, I would not be understood to mean *pecuniary* assistance, Lord Malden being, at the time alluded to, even poorer than myself; the death of his lordship's grandmother, Lady Frances Coningsby, had not then placed him above the penury of his own small income.

"Lord Malden's attentions to me again exposed him to all the
1800-1801. K k humiliation

humiliation of former periods. The Prince assured me once more of his wishes to renew our former friendship and affection, and urged me to meet him at the house of Lord Malden in Clarges-street. I was at this period little less than frantic, deeply involved in debt, persecuted by my enemies, and perpetually reproached by my relations. I would joyfully have resigned an existence, now become to me an intolerable burthen; yet my pride was not less than my sorrow, and I resolved, whatever my heart might suffer, to wear a placid countenance when I met the inquiring glances of my triumphant enemies.

“After much hesitation, by the advice of Lord Malden, I consented to meet his Royal Highness. He accosted me with every appearance of tender attachment, declaring that he had never for one moment ceased to love me—but, that I had many concealed enemies, who were exerting every effort to undermine me. We passed some hours in the most friendly and delightful conversation, and I began to flatter myself that all our differences were adjusted.—But what words can express my surprise and chagrin, when, on meeting his Royal Highness *the very next day* in Hyde Park, he turned his head to avoid seeing me, and even affected *not to know me!*”

“Overwhelmed by this blow, my distress knew no limits. Yet *Heaven* can witness the truth of my assertion, even in this moment of complete despair, when oppression bowed me to the earth, I blamed not the Prince. I did then, and ever shall, consider his mind as nobly and honourably organized, nor could I teach myself to believe, that a heart the seat of so many virtues, could possibly become inhuman and unjust. I had been taught from my infancy to believe that elevated stations are surrounded by delusive visions, which glitter but to dazzle, like an unsubstantial meteor, and flatter to betray. With legions of these phantoms it has been my fate to encounter; I have been unceasingly marked by their persecutions, and shall at length become their victim.”

This letter brings the narrative of Mrs. Robinson's life down to the year 1781, the period at which her final separation from the Prince of Wales took place.

The genius and the engaging manners of Mrs. Robinson had at that time, when her powers of mind had scarcely unfolded themselves, obtained for her the esteem and friendship of Sir Joshua Reynolds, Messrs. Sheridan, Burke, Henderson, Wilkes, Sir John Elliott, and many other gentlemen of distinguished talents and character.

In 1783 Mrs. Robinson determined to quit England on a tour to France, as well to escape from the persecutions of her creditors and the malice of enemies, as to amuse her disappointed mind. On this occasion she wrote to his Royal Highness, but her letter remained unanswered. Through the arbitration of Mr. Fox, however, her claims were adjusted by the grant of an annuity of five hundred pounds; the moiety of which was to descend to her daughter at her decease. The reception which Mrs. Robinson met with from the people of the first rank in Paris was highly flattering.

In 1784 she was attacked by a malady to which she had nearly fallen a victim. In travelling upon business of great importance to a friend to whom she was tenderly attached during a period of sixteen years,* she imprudently exposed herself to the night air, and contracted a violent rheumatism, which progressively deprived her of the use of her limbs; and at the age of four-and-twenty reduced a lovely and blooming woman to a state of more than infantine helplessness. This circumstance, however, acting as

* General Tarleton.

a check to the pleasures and vivacity of youth, depriving her of external resources, led her to the more assiduous cultivation and development of her talents.

With a view to the restoration of her health she resorted to the warm baths of Aix-la-Chapelle, where she passed two winters in most respectable and agreeable society.

About this period Mrs. Robinson lost her father, Captain Darby, who, on the final disappointment of his Labrador schemes, had obtained from his noble patrons the command of a small ordnance vessel, in which he signalised himself and obtained great honour at the siege of Gibraltar. He had afterwards, at the age of sixty-two, disgusted with the ingratitude of his early employers in England, entered into the Russian service, in which he was promoted to the command of a seventy-four gun ship; and in that service he died on the 5th December 1785.

During the four succeeding years of Mrs. Robinson's life nothing worthy of remark occurred.

She settled once more in the metropolis of England, and was surrounded by social and enlightened friends. The illness of her daughter, however, soon after compelled her to remove to Brighthelmstone, and to devote her whole time and attention to the tender duties of a maternal nurse. It was during this period, in the intervals of more active exertion, the silence of a sick chamber proving favourable to the muse, that Mrs. Robinson composed those poetic effusions, which have done so much honour to her genius, and have decked her tomb with unfading laurels.

In 1791 she produced her poem entitled, "Ainsi va le Monde." This work, containing three hundred and fifty lines, was written in *twelve hours*. Her first essay in prose soon followed, in "*Vancenza*," a romance. In 1793 she produced a farce at Drury-lane theatre under the title of "*Nobody*," which was withdrawn after the third night, in consequence of a concerted and inveterate opposition from known enemies of the authoress. In this year Mrs. Robinson lost her mother, who expired in her house, which had always been her asylum from the time of her husband's estrangement.

During the five following years no event of peculiar interest marked the life of this unfortunate lady; she gradually sunk under the efforts of her disorder, and, as she grew less able to bear up against the shocks of fate, her circumstances became less and less affluent; insomuch that she was compelled to convert the sportive exercises of fancy into toilsome labours of the brain; and nights of sleepless anxiety were succeeded by days of vexation and dread.

About this period she was induced to undertake the poetical department of the Morning Post; the columns of which paper she enriched by many beautiful effusions under various signatures. She also contributed to the same paper a series of essays under the title of the Sylphid.

In the spring of 1800 she was compelled, by the daily encroachments of her malady, wholly to relinquish her literary employments. She repaired a short time after to a small cottage *ornée* belonging to her

daughter; where on the 26th of December she expired.

She was interred in the church-yard of Old Windsor, agreeable to her particular request, and the following epitaph by Mr. Pratt is engraven on the simple monument erected to her memory :

EPITAPH on Mrs. Robinson's Monument in the Church of Old Windsor.

By S. J. Pratt, Esq.

Of Beauty's Isle, her daughters must declare,
 She who sleeps here was fairest of the fair.
 But ah ! while Nature on her favourite smil'd,
 And Genius claim'd his share in Beauty's child ;
 Ev'n as they wove a garland for her brow,
 Sorrow prepar'd a willowy wreath of woe ;
 Mix'd lurid nightshade with the buds of May,
 And twin'd her darkest cypress with the bay :
 In mildew tears steep'd every opening flow'r,
 Prey'd on the sweets, and gave the canker pow'r ;
 Yet, O may Pity's angel, from the grave
 This early victim of misfortune save !
 And as she springs to everlasting morn,
 May Glory's fadeless crown her soul adorn !

As a writer Mrs. Robinson ranks high among the female ornaments of British literature. The native impulse of her genius seems to have been peculiarly directed to poetry. The defects of her poetry are a redundancy of epithets, and occasionally an obscurity of metaphor, or a false imagery; but against these are to be weighed an harmonious flow of numbers, a force of thought, a richness of feeling, and a sublimity of sentiment certainly not surpassed, and perhaps not altogether equalled by any of her cotemporaries, male or female. As a novelist Mrs. Robinson

is also entitled to praise for the display of much fancy, and some exquisite strokes of satire; but it is as a poetess that her name will be most honoured and admired by posterity. The following is an accurate list of all her works:

Poems, in one vol. octavo (out of print); Vancenza, a romance, in two vols.; second vol. of Poems (out of print); the Widow, a novel, two vols.; Impartial Reflections on the Situation of the Queen of France, written in the year 1790, a pamphlet; Sight, a poem, inscribed to John Taylor, Esq.; Solitude, a poem; the Cavern of Woe, a poem; Ainsi va le Monde, a poem; the Sicilian Lover, a tragedy never performed; Angelina, a novel, in three vols.; Hubert De Sevrac, four vols.; Walsingham, four vols.; Thoughts on the Condition of Women, and the Injustice of Mental Subordination, a pamphlet; the False Friend, a novel, four vols.; the Natural Daughter, two vols.; Lyrical Tales, one vol.

POETICAL PIECES, *written between Dec. 1799 and Dec. 1800.*

The Miser, a poem; the Nettle and the Daisy, a fable; the Mistletoe, a Christmas tale; the Deserted Cottage, a tale; Ode to the New Year; Deborah's Parrot, a tale; Mrs. Gurton's Cat, a tale; The Wintery Day; Sappho to Phaon; Anacreontic; Ode to Mrs. Jordan; Modern Love; Lines to the Duchess of Devonshire; the Gamester, an ode; the Poor Singing Dame, a tale; Old Barnard, a Monkish tale; Sappho to Bacchus; Lines on leaving the Country; Agnes, a story; the Haunted Beach, a tale; Lines to Miss Wortley on her Marriage with Colonel Cunningham; Ode to the Spirit of Chivalry; the Belle's Remonstrance; the Confessor, a tale; Lover's Vows; to the Aspen Tree; Sonnet, Laura to Petrarch; to the May Fly; the Beau's Remonstrance; Lines to the Countess of Yarmouth; the Grey Beard; Poor Marguerite, a tale; the Fortune Teller, a tale; a Cure for Love; Lesbia's Dream; the Spinster; to Lord Moira; Stanzas; Lines to S. J. Pratt, Esq.; Anacreontic; to Spring; Ode to Apathy; When I was Young, a story; the Granny Grep, a tale; on a Kiss; to Mrs. Meynel, on the Death

of her Husband; Lines to an Infant sleeping, inscribed to Mrs. Fenwick, author of "Secrecy," a novel; to the Sun-Flower; to Him who Complains; to Time; the Fisherman; the Old Beggar; to a Beautiful Infant; to a Swan; pretty Susan; a Summer's Day; Ode to Ignorance; Pity's Tear; to the Sun-beam; Harvest Home, a rustic poem; London's Summer Morning; Oberon to Titania; Titania to Oberon; elegy on Mrs. Gunning: the Poet's Garret; Fair Rhymes; to Annabelle, after the Manner of the Antient Poets; Sappho to Phaon; Lines written during a Storm; Ode to S. T. Coleridge, Esq. the Misanthrope; Beauty's Grave, inscribed to the Memory of the late Countess of Tyrconnel; the Savage of Aveyron, a poem.

DR. JOHN COAKLEY LETTSOM.

THERE scarcely exists, in the present age, a character more distinguished for public and private benevolence, for every species of useful exertion, both as a professional man, and as a member of society at large, than the subject of the present memoir. Placed by the medical experience, which he is known to possess, in a very elevated rank among his brethren, and enjoying, as well from domestic sources as from long and extensive practice, a respectable fortune, he has incessantly laboured for the benefit and happiness of the human race.

Not renouncing the peculiar community in which he was brought up, yet above the prejudices of any sect or society, he has uniformly pursued the conduct which the magnanimous Penn, one of its founders, pursued; considering in the light of a FRIEND, every liberal and worthy man, without regard to any peculiarity of sentiments, or habits, when not repugnant

to

to virtue. We are far from meaning to assert that he is without failings, for who of us is perfect? but they are the failings of a mind of sensibility, of generosity, of affection.

As a proof of this liberality of religious sentiment, we have seen an Essay of the Doctor's on religious persecution, which was printed to present to his particular friends; in which, after intimating that about 3000 religious societies exist in the world, he proceeds as follows :

" In the great important truths of religion, as they respect the moral government and infinite goodness of a Supreme Being, and the adorable and humble relation between the Creator and the creature, mankind seem generally united ; it is in subordinate points that the greatest asperity has been maintained, as if they were solely essential to the happiness of mankind ; whereas a just consideration of the universality of the Almighty's goodness, who permits all sects to exist peaceably under his moral agency, would dispel prejudice, and substitute forbearance and concord. For, which sect dares to arrogate to itself the only true religion, and thus exclude the judgment and principles of 2,999 other societies ? By whose agency or permission do all these societies exist, and find happiness in their respective tenets? —By the wisdom of the Creator. Well, indeed, might it be applied to the narrowness or bitterness of a sectary, " Thou can'st see the mote in thy brother's eye, but wilt not contemplate the beam in thy own."

" The more we scrutinize into natural objects, and reflect upon their existence and formation; the more forcibly are we compelled to conclude, that Infinite Wisdom has been pleased to create and constitute such an incalculable variety around us, that no two things were ever made alike. In vain would be the labour of that man, who should attempt to find two seeds, or two leaves, exactly similar; like the plodding individual, who, with the point of his pen, made a million of dots on paper, in hope, but a vain hope it proved, of finding two of equal form
and

and dimensions ; hence, if the finger of the Supreme Architect has been pleased to impress on his own works an endless variety ; not only in the outward creation, but likewise in the *sentient* principle, is it not impious to persecute for difference of opinion, or modes of adoring him, whose ways are said to be past finding out ?

“ If any act of his intellectual creatures could add to his felicity, perhaps no combined operation of ours could afford a more acceptable oblation, than his diversified creation, moving in different paths to the altar of praise and thanksgiving, and ultimately uniting in one centre of adoration.

“ Of his intellectual creatures in this globe alone, fifty thousand die every day ; immense as this number is, how diminutive must it appear, were contemplation to carry the mind to regions without number, in the expanse of the heavens !* and what sectaries then dare to limit the infinity of his love, and presumptuously arrogate the title of a chosen few to themselves ! What idea have they of that Being, who is equally good as powerful ! If fifty thousand souls of this globe, this grain of sand in the visible creation, daily pass from time to eternity, are there not mansions prepared in our Father’s house sufficient for their reception ?”

The deserving object of this memoir, having often, in the moments of social intercourse, disclosed many circumstances of his life to the writer of this article, he hopes that the display of what cannot fail of animating industry, and exciting emulation, among mankind, will not be considered as a breach of con-

* Herschell, I think, has observed, that in one sweep of fifteen degrees of his great telescope, in that part of the heavens called the Milky way, he counted some thousands of stars ; and if we allow these, and others within the range of the eye, as suns to other worlds, all inhabited according to Divine Wisdom, incalculable millions of beings must every moment of time be travelling towards the heaven of heavens, the pure empyreum of incomprehensible excellence !

fidence. The anecdotes that will be related are from a genuine source, and cannot fail of being proportionably interesting.

In the vast Atlantic ocean, in eighteen degrees of north latitude, and sixty-three degrees of west longitude, within the verge of the tropics, is situated, near Tortola, a small island, about three miles in circumference, called Little Van Dyke. In this secluded spot, about the close we believe of the year 1744, John Coakley Lettsom drew his first breath. His ancestors, on the father's side, originated from Lettsom, or as it is called in Doomsday-book, Ledsom, a small village in Cheshire: on the mother's side they are lineally descended from Sir Cæsar Coakley, an Irish Baronet, whose family have uniformly possessed a seat in the parliament of that kingdom, the last of whom was Sir Vesey Coakley. Different branches of these families, during the government in Ireland of Ireton, son-in-law of the Protector Cromwell, went to Barbadoes, in favour of the Commonwealth, and settled afterwards in different islands among that large cluster known to us by the name of the Leeward and Windward Islands.

When only about six years of age, the young subject of our attention was sent to England for his education. Among individuals, as well as nations, how often do the most important events arise from the most trifling! The future destiny of the infant Lettsom seems to have been determined by the accidental circumstance of his landing at a sea-port where Mr. Fothergill, then a celebrated preacher among the quakers,

quakers, and own brother to the late distinguished physician of the same name, happened to be on a visit; and he was received into the very same house in which the preacher lodged. The excellent man had no child; but immediately a parental affection, in favour of the Atlantic youth, was impressed on his mind; and, by his advice, he was sent to school to Mr. Thompson, uncle to the physician of the same name in London, who was then assistant in the school, with whom and his pupil an inviolable friendship, now of half a century's duration, commenced, and still continues with unabated fervour.

Mr. Thompson's school was in the vicinity of Warrington, where Mr. Fothergill lived, and by this means, the superintendence of his education was continued till the period when the law admits of a youth choosing his own guardian, which, in consequence of the death of his father some years before, he did, in the person of his friendly protector. The amiable pastor accepted the important charge, and placed him, with a view to his future profession, with Dr. Sutcliff, intending, when of proper age and experience, to recommend him to the patronage of his brother, then in the highest line of practice on the great theatre of London.

After leaving Dr. Sutcliff, our young proficient came to town, and assiduously attended St. Thomas's Hospital for two years; he then went back to his native soil, to take possession of a property which came to him by the death of his father, and elder brother, who having contrived to run through an ample fortune,

tune, in a few years, left very little of the family estate to be inherited by the Doctor, except a number of negro slaves, whom, to his honour, he emancipated; and, in the twenty-third year of his age, as he has often told the writer of this article, found himself five hundred pounds worse than nothing.

The fortune of Mr. Lettsom was henceforth, therefore, solely to be made as a *medical practitioner*; and as difficulty begets exertion, so strenuous were his endeavours, and so extensive was his practice in Tortola, where he settled, that, in a very short time, he was enabled to return to Europe, and to visit the great medical schools of Paris, Edinburgh, and Leyden, at the latter of which universities he took his degree. To complete his education, he visited, besides Paris, most of the places of resort for the relief of invalids abroad; as Spa, in Westphalia, Aix-la-Chapelle, and various others.

When he visited Paris, he carried, among other honourable recommendations, the following one from Dr. Franklin to Monsieur Dubourg.

Londres, 30 Août, 1760.

« * * * * * Cette lettre vous sera remise par le Docteur Lettsom, jeune médecin américain de beaucoup de mérite, qui est de la paisible secte des Trembleurs, et que vous regarderiez conséquemment au moins comme une rareté à contempler, quand même vous auriez épousé toutes les préventions de la plupart de vos compatriotes sur le compte de ces bonnes gens.”——
Œuvres de Franklin, tom. ii. p. 314. Paris, 1773.

He was afterwards introduced to the celebrated Macquer, Le Roy, and other characters conspicuous at that period, and with whom he corresponded till
their

their decease. He published the life of his friend Dubourg, in the first volume of the Memoirs of the Medical Society of London. After this circuit, he repaired to London, where he finally settled, with the undeviating friendship of his old guardian, and the patronage of his brother, the physician, whose life he has lived to publish to evince his gratitude. About the year 1769, he was admitted a member of the Royal College of Physicians; the year after, he was elected a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries; and in the year succeeding that, a fellow of the Royal Society: but of these honours we shall take occasion to speak hereafter.

Under such patronage, with a mind richly stored with science, matured by reflection, improved by experience, success was insured; and its fruits were displayed, not in a fastidious conduct and ostentatious parade, but in benevolent schemes for the relief of the distressed poor, and numerous charitable institutions to mitigate pain and repel disease. Many of these originated with himself; and, of those that were planned by others, *most* received from him considerable improvement, and *all* his active support. His subsequent marriage with an amiable woman, and the addition of a considerable fortune by that marriage, enlarged the means of doing good; nor has the necessary attention to the interests and happiness of a numerous family, the result of that marriage, permitted his zeal in the cause of philanthropy to cool, or restrained the current, in very arduous times, of a well-directed liberality. He has, in many instances,

instances, fostered genius, cherished science, and expanded the circle of the arts, in periods of individual and national distress, unprecedented in the annals of this country, and his *purse*, equally with his *pen*, has been devoted to their cause. Medicine, botany, and chemistry, have been particularly indebted to his zealous researches; foreigners of talents and merit have ever found a hospitable reception under his roof; and he has constantly kept up a correspondence with the literati of the first eminence, both throughout Europe and America.

It must be confessed, indeed, that professional men, of great practice and popularity, and especially physicians, have more abundant opportunities of becoming useful members of the grand community of mankind, than any other class or order of persons whatsoever. And if, as in the case under our immediate consideration, to great medical practice, is added a due proportion of philanthropy, neither the legislator who protects our persons and our property, nor the divine to whom is committed the sacred charge of what is more valuable than the most appreciated of our worldly possessions, hath so many occasions for administering to the *health* and the *sickness*, the strength and weakness of our bodies and our mind.

If it happens, moreover, that a character of this description is established in the vast metropolis of this mighty empire, a circumstance which, likewise, applies to the subject of this memoir, the powers of *healing* multiply and expand a thousand fold. The duty of a metropolitan physician, indeed, of every other

other to a certain degree, is most imperfectly performed by him who is contented to hear the history of a disease, examine its symptoms, prescribe to its immediate state, and then set off, fee in hand, to visit other patients, till the golden tour of the day is performed. It is part of the medical function to apply balm to the troubles that alarm the imagination, the pangs that agonize the senses, the sensibility that bleeds at the heart, and the nerves that tremble to the sickness of the soul!—from all which so many disorders of the body are aggravated or produced. And we are persuaded that many a heart is broken, many a constitution overborne, and many a life lost, for want of that timely succour and relief which most of our medical men would give, were not the sick in mind, body, or estate, to defer their confidence, from vain fear or false delicacy, till too late. A sagacious and tender hearted practitioner will combine urbanity of manners and gentleness of demeanour with professional skill; for want of which, the patient, in more than one instance we could name, has fallen a victim to that coarse, and abrupt, not to say brutal violence, or indifference, which familiarity with the sufferings of human nature is known sometimes to create.

Few persons living have had, in the course of upwards of thirty years *plenitude* of practice in London, so much power, and, we believe, so much inclination, to serve his sick and sorrowing fellow creatures as Dr. Lettsom. The contributor of these hasty but faithful materials, has watched him for upwards of twenty years of that time, and been in the habits of marking
his

his progress with a silent but vigilant attention. Of medical talents, perhaps, only scientific men can competently judge, since even great practice does not always determine the degree of actual excellence : circumstances of patronage, at a favourable moment, one lucky cure in a remarkable case, or only performed on a remarkable person, may be followed by an eclat, which twenty years of ordinary pursuit in a less fortunate man could not acquire : in the same manner as a gentleman of the long robe has frequently established his popularity by a single cause, his success in which has lifted him above his fellows, many of whom have grown grey at the bar. Of Dr. Lettsom's professional qualities, therefore, speaking of him abstractedly as a physician, we do not feel ourselves competent to decide ; but adding these, as they stand in the *measure of public estimation*, to his philanthropical virtues, his collective fitness *for*, and performance *of*, the diversified duties of a physician, his medical character appears to us to stand in a very high and honourable light.

Dr. Lettsom seems always to have considered it as amongst the foremost of those duties to assuage the *mind*, as well as relieve the body of his patient : and, although a press of daily practice makes it necessary that he should set a just value on *time*, he has never been governed by the stop-watch, to hurry away from the invalid whom he believed might be as much assisted by his physician's society as by his prescription. On the contrary, it has been his constant practice to solace and cheer, by the prevailing aids of gentle and

encouraging conversation, as much as by medicine; and he has been known to devote many of those hours even necessary to his own repose, to quiet the throbbing pulse and dispose the wakeful eye of his patient to that sleep, which *indeed* "ministers to a *mind* eased," and so often *really* "knits up the ravelled sleeve of care." An apparently slight, but, in truth, a most important office! Few, it is presumed, of our readers who have not at one time or another, by some one of the innumerable maladies to which our flesh is heir, "been consigned to the chambers of dis-ease;" and of these we will venture to say there is not a single being, who has not felt his languor of body, and misery of mind, gain somewhat of strength and ease; or groan additionally under the aggravation of both, as the man called into their assistance has been of a courteous or stern demeanor. The failing frame, and the desolated spirit, are as much raised by the one as sunk by the other. A kind look, a soft word, is sometimes of the utmost consequence; and the breath of hope in life, or a happy reception in heaven after death, though conveyed in whispers to the ear and heart of a sick person, has done more than all the nostrums of the *Materia Medica*.

And this hope is Dr. Lettsom particularly calculated to afford, as well from constitutional mildness, as from a belief in its efficacy; an assertion this, of which the most ample proof might be adduced by witnesses who live to acknowledge him as their physician and their friend.

We have been the more earnest to bring forward
this

this quality, because we have so often seen, in medical practitioners, the very *reverse* of this amiable conduct adopted—a fundamental, and not unfrequently a fatal error. We will, indeed, venture to say, that next to professional skill, the modes and manners of applying it, of addressing and conversing with the valetudinary, whatever be his disorder, should be relied on by the practitioner as the most salutary he can give; they are the best lenitives of pain, the balm of a bruised imagination, and most potent cathartics of the mind.

But the consolations of Dr. Lettsom have not been circumscribed by gentleness of manners only, his heart is said not seldom to have filled the hands of such patients as stood no less in need of his *benevolence* than his skill: the increasing pensioners among the poor are proofs of this, and the supplies of the unhappy have always, we understand, kept pace with his receipts from the rich; so that if the latter supplied the reservoir, his liberality was the fountain to distribute its golden stream. But the ever-accumulating demands upon his humanity have made it necessary that he should, at length, prescribe to himself some limit as the law of his generosity, lest, while some were replenished by the cup of joy, others might have nothing left them but the dregs.

It seems to be a well-founded fact, that Dr. Lettsom was many years ago attacked, upon his return to town, on Finchley Common, by a highwayman, whose rencontre was attended by many interesting circumstances; one of the most remarkable of which

was, to use the words of a writer* who has detailed the transaction in his usual glowing, but we believe, faithful colours: "the Doctor's converting a public robber into a man who was afterwards chosen to *guard* the public faith, and to hold, even at this day, a responsible situation in one of the most important offices of trust in England."

Neither can we take upon us to deny, but have heard much authority to confirm the truth of the narrative of the "benevolent London Physician's" kindness to the merchant under difficulty,† related by the same author in his "Gleanings."‡ Though, as Mr. Pratt himself observes,

"There is an air of romance about the history, better suited to the days of chivalry, when to sally forth in *quest* of the unhappy, and of the oppressed, and to relieve them, was a vital part of the *education*, and even of the *religion* of a gentleman (than to the present times) which, though perhaps no less distinguished for liberal actions, than any age whatsoever, less encourages that *Quixotism* in benevolence, which marked the characters of former æra's. To minds truly great and worthy, however, there will seem nothing surprising, though certainly something very singular in all this. They will easily credit, words and deeds of which they are themselves so capable; and follow the good old rule of judging others by themselves."

Of Doctor Lettsom's villa, called Grove Hill, near Camberwell, we shall speak presently, and cannot but join in opinion with all who have given any account of it, that it is a matter of surprise that

* Mr. Pratt, in his "*Liberal Opinions*, or History of Benignus," vol. iv.

† Vol. i.

a villa on the south side of the Thames, little more than three miles from the three city bridges, and which may be seen from that of Blackfriars, and from the tranverse streets of the Strand, should afford a prospect of nearly *one hundred miles* in circumference ! This extensive and picturesque view wrought so forcibly on the imagination of that chaste and amiable poet, the late John Scott, of Amwell, that he burst forth into the following description of it, which not only exhibits the genius of the poet, but the character of the physician whose biography now employs our attention :

“ Where Grove-hill shews thy villa fair,
 But late, my Lettsom, there with thee,
 ’Twas mine the tranquil hour to share,
 The social hour of converse free ;
 To mark th’ arrangement of thy ground,
 And all the pleasing prospect round,
 Where while we gaz’d new beauties still were found

 That business with fatiguing cares,
 For this delightful seat of thine,
 Such scanty store of moment spares,
 Say, friend, shall I for thee repine ?
 Were it the commerce of the main,
 Or culture of the teaming plain,
 From blame or pity I could scarce refrain.

 But, oh ! to soften human woes,
 To banish sickness, banish pain,
 To give the sleepless eye repose,
 The nerveless arm its strength again ;
 From parent’s eyes to dry the tear,
 The wife’s distressful thoughts to chear,
 And end the husband and the lover’s fear ;

Where want sits pining, faint and ill,
 To lend thy kind, unpurchas'd aid,
 And hear th' exertions of thy skill,
 With many a grateful blessing paid;
 'Tis luxury to the feeling heart,
 Beyond what social hours impart,
 On nature's beauteous scenes, or curious works of art."

In the eyes of Mr. Maurice also, by whose various talents, a critic has observed, the public has been frequently instructed and entertained, *Grove Hill* possesses distinctions and advantages worthy of being celebrated in verse. Accordingly the poet, whilst on a visit to Dr. Lettsom, was so struck with the interesting scenery, and beautiful landscapes, with which the place abounds, as to have an instantaneous desire excited in his mind to express the sentiments he felt in verse. The composition being very animated, we regret that it is not within the scope of our plan in this work, to particularize the more predominant features and excellencies of the scene, but the conclusive lines, which describe a cottage in the pleasure grounds, are so impressive, and sum up the character of the hospitable master of the dome so agreeably, without being adulatory, that we feel a propriety in giving them place. After painting the garden, the library, and the landscape around, in which the reader will not meet with any mean or feeble versification—the bard exclaims,

" Such are the soft, enchanting scenes display'd,
 In all the blended charms of light and shade,
 At Camberwell's fair Grove, and verdant brow,
 The loveliest Surry's lofty hills can shew ;

And

And long may he whose bold excursive mind,
 This sweet terrestrial paradise design'd ;
 Long may he view the favourite bower he plann'd,
 Its tow'ring foliage o'er his race expand :
 Behold them flourish in its graceful shade ;
 And in their father's steps delighted tread ;
 Then, full of years, and crown'd with well-earn'd fame,
 Retire in peace, his bright reward to claim."

We feel convinced that our readers will join in the wish of the closing couplet.

It has already been observed that the ample possessions of Dr. Lettsom are not all suffered to accumulate for the sake of aggrandizing a family. Our respectable Doctor has always been a parent to the poor, and considered the unfortunate as part of his family. Towards the comfort and accommodation of these, we find him engaged in numberless ways and means as to their food, raiment, and happiness.

In the severity of the winter of 1794-5, added to the increased expences of every article of subsistence, and particularly of bread, he threw out humane and judicious "hints," with a view of alleviating the prevailing distresses. These were succeeded by hints respecting the immoderate effects of poverty. Various, observed Dr. Lettsom, are the occasions to excite the sympathetic feelings of the human heart, for distress appears in a thousand shapes ; but he is of opinion, and our readers will agree with him, that there are none more deserving our attention than abject poverty.

The benevolence of this nation is unquestionably great beyond comparison ; and when real distress is

known, some tender bosom overflows with sympathy and hastens to relieve; but in many diseases, the attack is violent and the progress rapid; and before pity can settle a poor helpless object, death decides its fate. There cannot be a doubt but that the profession of a medical man brings him acquainted with situations and circumstances of misery which few others can penetrate. Sickness, for instance, under every *exterior comfort*, excites our solicitude and concern; but what a picture of human woe is exhibited when want, penury, and pain at once besiege the pillow! A portrait of this melancholy, yet interesting kind, the worthy object of this memoir has drawn with his own hand, the recital of which, even to those who may have met with it, will not be unacceptable.

"About the beginning of December, on going out of my house," says the Doctor, "I was accosted by a tall thin man, whose countenance exhibited such a picture of distress and poverty as fixed my attention, and induced me to enquire into his situation. He informed me that he was a day-labourer, just recovering from sickness, and that feeble as he then was, in order to procure sustenance for a sick family at home, he was compelled to seek for work, and to exert himself much beyond his strength; and he added that he lived in a court called Little Greenwich, in Aldersgate-street. This poor object seemed to feel distress too deeply to be an impostor: and I could not avoid bestowing some means of obviating his present want, for which he retired bowing, with tears in his eyes; but when he got out of sight, his image was present with me: I was then sorry that my generosity had not been equal to my sensibility, and this induced me to attempt finding out his family. He had mentioned that his name was Foy, and by the information he gave me I discovered his miserable habitation: with difficulty I found my way up a dark passage and stair-case to a little chamber, furnished with one bedstead: an old

old box was the only article that answered the purpose of a chair, the furniture of the bed consisted in a piece of old ticken, and a worn-out blanket, which constituted the only couch, except the floor, whereon this afflicted family could recline their heads to rest : and what a scene did they present ! Near the centre of the bed lay the mother with half a shift, and covered as high as the middle with a blanket. She was incapable of telling her complaints. The spittle, for want of some fluid to moisten her mouth, had dried upon her lips, which were black, as were likewise the gums, the concomitants of a putrid fever, the disorder under which she laboured. At another end of the blanket was extended a girl about five years old : it had rolled from under this covering, and was totally naked, except its back, on which a blister plaster was tied by a piece of packthread crossed over its breast ; and, though labouring under this dreadful fever, the poor creature was asleep. On one side of its mother lay a naked boy about two years old ; this little innocent was likewise sleeping. On the other side of the mother, on the floor, or rather on an old box, lay a girl about twelve years old ; she was in part covered with her gown and petticoat, but she had no shift. The fever had not bereaved her of her senses, she was perpetually moaning out, “ I shall die of thirst ; pray give me some water to drink.” Near her stood another girl, about four years old, barefooted : her whole covering was a loose piece of petticoat thrown over her shoulders ; and to this infant it was that her sister was crying for water.*

“ I now experienced how greatly the sight of real misery exceeds the description of it.

“ What a contrast did this scene exhibit to the plenty and elegance which reigned within the extent of a few yards only ; for this miserable receptacle was opposite to the stately edifice of an honourable alderman, and still nearer were many spacious houses and shops. I have observed that the daughter, who was stretched

* In Ireland, this has been seen, with aggravations ; the family being sick, naked, without food, or any help, and lying on dirty straw.—EDITOR.

on the floor, was still able to speak. She told me that something was the matter with her mother's side, and asked me to look at it. I turned up an edge of the blanket, and found that a very large mortification had taken place, extending from the middle of the body to the middle of the thigh, and of a hand's breadth; the length was upwards of half a yard, and to stop its progress nothing had been applied. It was a painful sight to behold, and many not less painful exist in this metropolis. I procured medical assistance immediately, and for a trifling gratuity got a neighbour to nurse the family. The churchwarden, to whom I made application, heard their history with concern, and added his humane aid, to rescue from death a poor and almost expiring family. I have, however, the pleasure to conclude this relation of their unspeakable distress, by communicating their total deliverance from it; which, I think, may be justly attributed to the timely assistance administered."

Amongst the most remarkable *public* services that Doctor Lettsom has rendered his country, was his contest *with*, and complete conquest *of*, the most famous of all the most famous water Doctors, the redoubted Mayersbach.

Doctor Lettsom's writings are very numerous, as well moral as medical, and all of them discover the philanthropist and physician; the whole on the basis of public good. We are pleased with the opportunity of presenting a more accurate list of them than has yet been given.

1 Reflections on the general Treatment and Cure of Fevers, 8vo. 1772, price 2s.

2 The Natural History of the Tea-tree, with Observations on the Medical Qualities of Tea, and Effects of Tea-drinking; 4to. 1772, price 4s.

3 The Naturalist's and Traveller's Companion; containing Instructions for collecting and preserving Objects of Natural History,

- History, 8vo. 1774. The second edition, price 2s. 6d. The third edition, 1800, price 4s.
- 4 Medical Memoirs of the general Dispensary in London, 8vo. 1774, price 4s.
 - 5 Improvement of Medicine in London, on the Basis of Public Good, 8vo. 1775, price 1s. 6d.
 - 6 Observations preparatory to the Use of Dr. Mayersbach's Medicines, 8vo. 1776. The second edition, with an Engraving of the Water-Doctor from Teniers, price 1s. 6d.
 - 7 History of the Origin of Medicine; and of the State of Physic prior to the Trojan War. An Oration delivered before the Medical Society of London, 4to. 1778, price 6s.
 - 8 Observations on the Plan proposed for establishing a Dispensary and Medical Society, with Formulæ Medicamentorum Pauperibus præcipue accommodatæ, 8vo. 1772, price 1s.
 - 9 A Letter to Sir Robert Barker, Knt. F. R. S. and George Stacpoole, Esq. upon General Inoculation, 4to. 1779, price 6d.
 - 10 Hints, designed to promote Beneficence, Temperance, and Medical Science, 8vo. 1798, price 5s.
 - 11 Observations on Religious Persecution, 8vo. 1800, price 6d.
 - 12 Village Society, a Sketch, 8vo. 1800, price 1s.
 - 12 The Works of John Fothergill, M. D. 3 vols. 8vo. and one volume 4to. 1784, price 11. 1s.
 - 13 Memoirs of the Life of John Fothergill, M. D. 8vo. price 6s.
 - 14 Hints addressed to Card Parties, 8vo. 1799, price 6d.
 - 15 Observations on Human Dissections, 8vo. 1788, price 1s.
 - 14 Observations on the Cowpock, two editions, 1801, 8vo.
 - 15 Hints on Beneficence, Temperance, and Medical Science 3 vols. 8vo. 1801.
- Besides various Medical Essays, &c. in the Philosophical Transactions—Memoirs of the Medical Society of London—Bath Society Memoirs, &c.

In this catalogue we do not find any mention made of the travels of the late gallant and unfortunate
 Captain

Captain Carver, of which the Doctor not only wrote the life, and edited the whole work, but was at the expence of the publication, the benefits of which, and it was very successful, he appropriated to the amiable, afflicted widow, and fatherless offspring of that brave officer; supplying, besides this, the forlorn family with the means of every comfort that humanity and friendship could administer, not only till the profits of the book could come round, but as long after as was necessary for their accommodation. Though the delicacy of the Doctor's mind may wish to conceal this generosity, we have reason to believe that the parties benefited *do*, as far as private communication extends, discover it, and will rejoice in the opportunity of a more enlarged diffusion of their gratitude.

Of the Natural History of the Tea Tree, there is a new and enlarged edition. The inaugural thesis written for the author's degree of doctor at Leyden, was published there, on this subject, in a small quarto size, containing twenty-seven pages. Prefixed is a folded plate containing two figures of tea plants; but this plate has not been copied in the subsequent editions. This thesis is dedicated to Dr. Fothergill, and to a surgeon, named Sudcliffe, at Settle, in Yorkshire. How the author came to select this subject, is stated in the opening of the thesis. He had determined to write for his degree on the subject of "sleep and watchfulness," but finding himself carried to a more laborious extent than he expected, in pursuit of that enquiry, he extracted from it
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the part which related to the effects of tea, as connected with the other subject, and made that his thesis. The present edition every way improves upon the former. That had only one plate; this has four additional ones; the three first of which are beautifully coloured. The whole, in its present state, constitutes a very satisfactory account of a subject, in which, from the long established custom of drinking this infusion, almost every inhabitant of England feels more or less interest. Dr. Lettsom has discussed the point with great sagacity and fairness, but we are still of opinion with this critic, that it will not much succeed in discouraging the use of tea; an assertion which the practice of the world, since the original publication of the tract, in 1796, may serve abundantly to evince.

So many instances of public exertion have not escaped public notice, and many literary societies, in various parts of Europe and America, have, in consequence, enrolled the name of Dr. Lettsom among their members. The bare enumeration of these honours would fill several pages, but the perusal of them would afford little gratification to those who do not estimate characters by titles. A few, however, may be mentioned, as well for the sake of gratitude, as to excite a kindred emulation in the mind of others to deserve as well of their country.

This deserving man is Doctor of Physic of the University of Leyden.

Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, London.

Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.

Fellow

Fellow of the Royal Societies of London and Edinburgh.

Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, London.

Fellow of the Medical Society of London.

Fellow of the Linnæan Society of London.

Physician Extraordinary of the City of London Lying-in Hospital.

Physician Extraordinary of the General Dispensary, London.

Honorary member of the Literary and Philosophical Societies of Manchester and Philadelphia.

Honorary member of the Agricultural Society, Bath.

Honorary member of the Academy of Sciences, Montpelier.

Doctor of Laws, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Besides these, he has been chosen to the vice-presidencies, and delegated to the treasuries of various public charities, and other benevolent institutions; fulfilling his duties to each with as high credit to himself, as comfort to those committed to his protection.

Amidst this profusion of honours gratefully bestowed by man, and this influx of blessings showered down by approving heaven, at the moment when his happiness seemed to have reached its meridian, one of the most dreadful calamities that can befall a human being, with sensibility and affections like those of Dr. Lettsom, became his unfortunate lot. His eldest son, Dr. John Lettsom, a name ever dear to virtue and to science, having, from a delicate constitution, been with difficulty reared, and having narrowly escaped, in his youth, some serious appearances of danger, seemed at length to have surmounted every peril. Delighted equally with his dawning virtues and talents, his affectionate father spared no pains,

pains, nor expence, to prepare him, in due time, for the first honours of that profession of which he himself is so distinguished an ornament. In company with Dr. Sims, the learned president of the Medical Society of London, he travelled through a considerable part of Europe, and his engaging manners and scientific attainments rendered him highly acceptable to the literati of the various foreign universities which he visited. On his return to England, the same causes procured every where the same predilection in his favour; every department of society courted his friendship, and some of the first literary circles enrolled him among their members. His character was neither tarnished on the one hand, with supercilious pride; nor, on the other, with servile complaisance. A natural unaffected ease and politeness reigned throughout his whole air and manners. He was learned without pedantry, and gay without dissipation: in company he gave his sentiments with modesty: but as he never uttered an opinion without due deliberation, when opposed, he always maintained them with firmness and dignity.

In his domestic relations he set an admirable example of filial, conjugal, parental, and fraternal affection; and in an age of vice and depravity he was like Milton's Abdiel, "amidst the faithless, faithful found."

In the arduous duties of the professional character, his assiduity, zeal, and tenderness, were prominently conspicuous, and he conscientiously performed all
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the various functions of his laborious employ. He constantly made his patient's case his own, and sustenance and sleep were often sacrificed to that severe attention with which he unremittingly watched the touch of lingering disease. The following extract from a periodical publication, pathetically states the untimely end of this amiable young man, and concisely, but justly describes his excellent endowments.

Gentleman's Magazine, January 1800.

"After twelve days illness, from a fever, supposed to have originated from his unremitting attention to the duties of his medical profession, and particularly to the sick poor, to whom he was a friend and benefactor, that bright ornament of the community, Dr. JOHN MIERS LETTSOM, eldest son of Dr. Lettsom, died, at his house in Sambrook-court, Basinghall-street, in the twenty-eighth year of his life.

"In the station of a son, it is believed, that he never occasioned one sentiment of disapprobation; in that of a husband, and of a parent, he might be imitated, but could not be excelled; whilst the uniform suavity of his manners, and the undeviating rectitude of his character, rendered him universally beloved, as he is now universally lamented; and prepared him to retire from the society of friends to that of angels, to which his spotless mind was ever congenial."

Those only who have been exposed to the same dreadful trial with the agonizing parent of this accomplished young man, can conceive the exquisite tortures which such a separation must have occasioned him. But here all words, all description must fail! Painting may pourtray, in lively colours, the anguish of weeping friends and distant relations, but to express the deep sorrow of a suffering father
surpasses

surpasses her powers ; and, in congenial despair, she is compelled to draw a veil over his distracted features.

The following Epitaph is from the pen of Mr. MAURICE.

· EPITAPH ON JOHN MIERS LETTSOM, M. D.

ON virtuous LETTSOM, in his manly bloom,
Resistless, death's eternal shades descend ;
While kindred love and friendship round his tomb,
In speechless agony distracted bend.

Ah! what avails above the vulgar throng,
To rise in genius, or in worth to soar?
Impetuous rolls the stream of time along,
The bubble bursts, and life's gay dream is o'er.

In every stage of varying life approv'd,
And still of toiling want the stedfast friend,
He passed his *transient day*—admir'd—belov'd ;
ALL prais'd him living—ALL bemoan his end.

From heaven's high throne th' Almighty Sire look'd down,
Well-pleas'd to view such worth *below the skies* ;
He saw him ripe for an immortal crown,
And bade his soul quit *Earth* for PARADISE.

We have hitherto purposely omitted to notice a little effusion of Dr. Lettsom's pen, under the title of "Hints to Masters and Mistresses respecting Female Servants." This was originally intended merely for circulation among private friends, but could not possibly be too widely dispersed. It is, in truth, one of the most necessary and useful tracts that can fall into the hands of either masters, mistresses, or servants. The Doctor is of opinion, and who will be hardy enough to deny it? that the man who cultivates the soil, and whose individual labour supplies

his own wants, may, if any human being can, proudly say, "*he is independent.*" But even here numerous conveniences depending upon others must unavoidably be wanting; and the wealthy individual who produces nothing by labour, and consumes every thing that labour offers, although less independent, yet by administering to his indulgence or superfluities, the inferior ranks are in great measure supported. Thus independence is an unsocial, and, in the strict sense of moral obligation, an unfounded sentiment; while a due conviction of mutual dependence, and mutual obligation, tends to humanize the mind, and begets those dignified sympathies which not only move the heart to feel *for*, but likewise to administer *to*, every woe.

Doctor Lettsom is now advancing fast towards his sixtieth year, but till the pressure of domestic calamity, in the death of his justly lamented son, was in full possession of his health. He is of a cheerful disposition, loves society, and continues to endure inconceivable fatigue; for he may still be said to live more in his carriage than in his house; is alternately serious or jocular, with unaffected accordance to the transitions of subject, and is no enemy to the pleasantries of conversation, to which he contributes largely by various sallies adapted to the subject, shifting without pomp or difficulty, or professional formality,

"From grave to gay, from lively to severe."

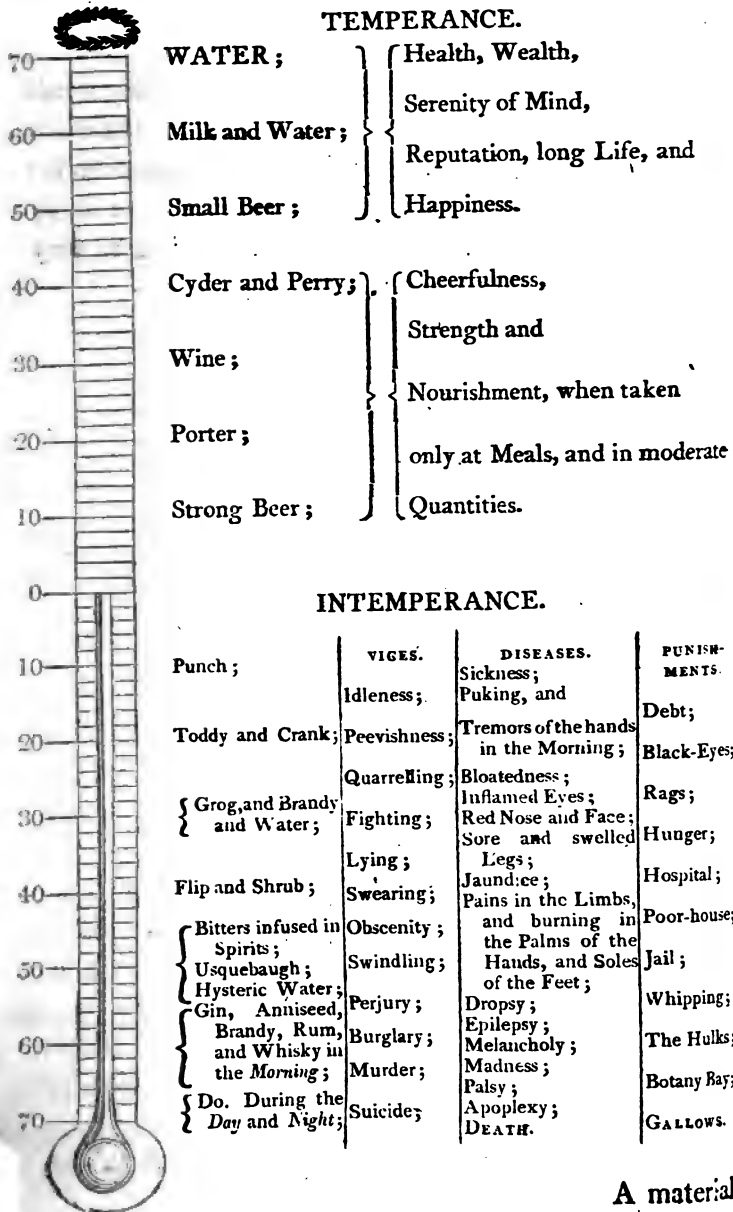
His person is very tall, and he has always been of a spare habit. There is not any of the graces in his manner

manner or features; but there are a great many of what is much better than any merely personal advantages have to bestow—the *benevolences* of a worthy heart, and the marks of a good understanding.

The Doctor some years ago published, on a half sheet of paper, a singular *Scale of Health*; the hints for which he acknowledges himself indebted to his friend Dr. Rush. As it may be acceptable to many of our readers, and certainly is calculated to be very useful, we shall here insert it.

A MORAL and PHYSICAL THERMOMETER; or, a Scale of the Progress of TEMPERANCE and INTEMPERANCE.

Liquors, with their EFFECTS, in their usual Order.



A material

A material advantage in biography is the opportunity which it affords of bringing into its page circumstances of character deserving imitation, or the contrary. In the present sketch, we see how time may be economized in new and extraordinary degrees. The life of a physician is in general a monotony of employment; but there may be deviations, which application or industry may point out, and (to delineate the routine of one week) what an immensity of employment the mind may embrace by diversifying the time and mode of application! This we shall elucidate by an hasty sketch, as far as our acquaintance with the Doctor will admit. We know that for thirty years past he has appointed two mornings and two afternoons, to give audience to patients and others, which may amount to about one hundred strangers seen every week. The extent of his professional business is known to every apothecary in London, which, without economy of time, would leave none for writing; this inconvenience, however, is obviated by an apparatus, which enables him to write in his carriage; and we have seen an alphabetical list which he keeps, amounting to about four hundred. By this procedure, which he daily employs on the streets of London, he maintains a punctuality almost incredible. Besides these, we find him early in the morning, in his cold bath, in his botanic garden, in his aviary or farm yard; at night, if discharged from professional calls, in his library or museum. All these he creates time to arrange, and preserve in order. We find him also in public committees,

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mittees, meetings, and associations, ever active, ever prominent, and never, apparently fatigued; and all these effected under the inconvenience of a tender constitution and delicate frame.

Though we believe he never was in North America, yet his literary acquaintance is very extensive on the new continent, and the Americans appear to have appreciated his character very highly, if we may judge from the number of titles they have conferred on him, comprizing almost every honorary rank in their power to bestow, in Philadelphia, New York, and the Massachusetts. By the first he was requested to transmit such a collection of books as he might judge suitable for the hospital. He is elected into the corporation of the hospital of New York; and in the university of Cambridge there is a spacious room allotted to the Lettsomian cabinet of natural history.

From an unrestrained cast of liberal and manly sentiment which Dr. Lettsom has through life displayed, from that rooted detestation of every species of oppression and tyranny which, in the circumstance of his emancipating, in early life, his negro slaves, was so strongly demonstrated, the Doctor has, by some inaccurate observers of the human mind, been asserted, in his principles, to have some small leaning to that side of the question which, in modern political jargon, is demonstrated *republican*; but though we know him to be a staunch *whig* of the old school, we deny that he is, in the modern sense of the word, a republican. He knows too much of life, feels too much

much of the throb of genuine virtue, and has witnessed too many of the disasters attendant on those principles usually termed democratical, to indulge himself, or to propagate in others, sentiments of that destructive nature; at the same time we are free to acknowledge that he possesses, in unison with every Englishman, that honest independent spirit, that ardent thirst for unadulterated, unabused freedom, which marks the true English character, and is a *patriot from principle*, because he knows that on virgin British ground, to borrow an expression from his favourite botanical science, those plants are indigenous. So far from being a democrat, he possesses such a high species of aristocratical pride, as to have recently purchased the island on which he was born, three miles in circumference. On this island, of which there is at Grove-hill a large painting, by the master hand of his brother islander, Dr. Thornton, there still exists the little house in which the Doctor was born, shaded by a stately tamarind tree, which he has often pointed out with rapture to the writer of this memoir; boasting that he will one day import the whole building into Britain, and die in the very chamber in which he was born, or, to use his own expression, in which his infant hammock was suspended.

Usually about ten o'clock in the evening, after the close of his medical engagements, he visits Grove-hill, his rural retreat at Camberwell, about three miles from London, where he has formed a museum of natural history, consisting of many rare and valuable specimens in that walk of science, as well as a bo-

tanic garden, enriched with the choicest plants, brought at a vast expence from the four quarters of the globe, all correctly arranged according to the Linnæan system. His library is very ample, and contains a collection of books in all languages, and on all sciences; but more particularly in those which relate to natural history, the Doctor's favourite study. Among other singular curiosities in this library, he shewed the writer, when lately on a visit to Grove-hill, a work in seven volumes quarto, printed at Regensberg, in the year 1765, the author Jacob Christine Schaffers, in which the leaves of the respective volumes are formed of different vegetables and other substances, which, in the present scarcity of paper, might afford ample means of information and utility. We are not certain that this rare and valuable work, which ought to be generally known, is in any other library in England.

Notwithstanding his advanced life, the blessings of fortune, and the attractions of his beautiful villa of Grove-hill, on which we need not further descant, Dr. Lettsom still continues the active and laborious pursuits which marked the commencement of his public career, indefatigable in the duties of his profession, and incessantly engaged in planning, or carrying into practice, benevolent schemes for the interest and happiness of his fellow-creatures. At Grove-hill, with all its rural charms and comforts, he may almost be called *a stranger at home*; for though his health obliges him generally to sleep in the country, yet at an early hour in the morning he usually
leaves

leaves that delightful spot, for the dirt and smoke of London. In short, determined, while health remains tolerably vigorous, to fulfil all the duties of his arduous station, though formed for the enjoyment of social life, he can find leisure only to devote one day in the week to company and social pleasure, when he relaxes in the circle of a few literary and convivial friends, to whom he freely unbends his mind, entertaining them with the anecdotes of his varied life, and blending the sallies of mirth and wit with the temperate enjoyment of the exhilarating grape.

Of late indeed, in consequence of the premature death of his son, his spirits have been deeply depressed, and a settled gloom has been visible on his countenance; but we hope that time, the exertions of reason, and the consolations of philosophy and religion, may alleviate, if they cannot obliterate, this source of unavailing grief. Let him look with parental rapture on the virtues and expanding talents of others of his amiable offspring, now entering, with the most promising hopes, upon the great theatre of human actions, and learn, in the animating prospect of future happiness, to forget the calamities of the past!



ALDERMAN SKINNER.

THIS biographical sketch is intended to represent the progress of an individual from the humblest station in society to the most elevated; from the threshold of poverty to the palace of the Chief Magistrate of London;

London; from the obscure crowd of the sons of labour to a distinguished and honourable rank among the public characters of his day.

The subject of this memoir does not owe his riches to the miseries of the poor; for he is no monopolizer. They are not the gifts of chance; for though it has been calculated that a fourth of the capital of the nation has passed through his hands, he has never speculated in loans, nor has ever in his life drawn or accepted, in the course of business, a single bill of exchange. Neither did his wealth spring from court favour; for though he is an Alderman of London, he has been neither a contractor, a commissary, nor an inquisitor of incomes; and though he has been Lord Mayor, he never degraded that office by acting as a Clerk to the Lords of the Treasury, nor ever converted the city mansion into a counting-house for the use of the Exchequer.

Mr. Skinner was born at Ealing, in Middlesex, about 1740. His parents were poor, and his education was almost wholly neglected. In 1754 he was apprenticed to Mr. Williams, a box-maker and undertaker, in Newgate-street. It has been said that during his apprenticeship he was considered as a remarkably dull lad; a circumstance which serves, with many similar instances, to prove how frequently the absence of a stimulus to action is mistaken for a natural deficiency of mental powers.

No sooner, however, was he released from the bonds of his apprenticeship, than that active spirit of industry and independence which has ever since influenced

fluenced him, became conspicuous. This honourable characteristic speedily obtained for him several friends; one of the first, and certainly the most valuable of whom was Mr. Howell, a respectable hosier, who resided at that time in Newgate-street.

The seasonable and disinterested aid with which this worthy man voluntarily seconded the early endeavours of Mr. Skinner was doubtless an essential part of the foundation of his subsequent prosperity, and reflects honour on the discernment and the heart of Mr. Howell.

In 1762 he married Margaret, the daughter of Thomas White, a reputable saw-smith of Whitecross-street. With this lady, it is understood, he received a portion of one hundred pounds. Besides this dowry, highly welcome no doubt to an enterprising young tradesman, Miss White possessed a mind as active as his own, and she even outvied him in habits of industry and perseverance. Her custom of early rising, frequently at four o'clock, became proverbial in the neighbourhood of Goswell-street, where Mr. Skinner first established himself in a small broker's shop.

The consequence of their united exertions in so meritorious a task as the amelioration of their own condition, and the securing prosperity to their offspring, was such as every philanthropic heart must have rejoiced to contemplate. Their industry was amply recompenced by an almost cloudless sunshine of success.

In a few years they removed from Goswell-street
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to a handsome house, built at their own expence, in Aldersgate-street, which has continued to be the town residence of the Alderman to the present day.

Thus far the elevation of Mr. Skinner above his origin may be attributed to the laborious industry of himself and his excellent partner : and had he rested here, the history of his life would have afforded only a scanty addition to the many examples already on record of the wholesome effects of industry.

It was from this epoch that he began to be known to the public as an auctioneer. In this line of business he has risen to an unprecedented degree of celebrity, and has honourably acquired more wealth than any other individual in that profession of the present or former times. We are inclined to believe that Peter Pindar was more than poetically correct when he sung of Mr. Skinner,

“ Who, with a hammer and a conscience clear,
Gets glory and ten thousand pounds a year.”

Yet he never possessed the shining accomplishments of a Cock or a Christie in the pulpit. He can boast no power of eloquence, nor arts of rhetoric. Plain truth has been his invariable figure of speech; unimpeachable honour, and incorruptible honesty, are the graces which he has constantly studied.

With these qualifications Mr. Skinner commenced his career as an auctioneer, and they were soon recognized by the monied interest of this commercial empire as the best possible recommendation to their confidence and patronage.

The virtuoso, the man of taste, or the man of fashion,

fashion, will doubtless extol *him* as the first of auctioneers, whose knowledge of the fine arts or the *belles modes* enable him to declaim most floridly upon the beauties of pictures and porcelaine. The man of the turf will tell that "*he's the sort*" who can trace the pedigree of every horse in every stud in the kingdom, and descant most *knowingly* upon the paces, the figure and the mettle of a racer or a hunter. But the warm citizen whose wary eye cons over building and repairing leases; the noble Lord whose need or whose whims are ever changing his manors from one county to another; the wealthy Jew who deals in bonds, post-obits and reversions; and all the various men of substance, whether they traffic in tontine-shares, tythes, or turnpike-roads, these will ever prefer him as their agent, whose well known honour and honesty command at all times a market, and which guarantce to both buyer and seller equal security.

In this last description of tradesmen Mr. Skinner has long been classed by the unanimous consent of the public. The sums which have passed through his hands are immense. There is scarcely a corner of the island which has not at one time or other felt the weight of his hammer, which, like a magician's wand, has transferred perhaps half the land of the kingdom from one owner to another. A single tap of this hammer has consigned to gentlemen sitting snugly in a box at Garraway's Coffee-house, not merely tin-mines in Cornwall, or coal-mines in Wales, but absolutely whole plantations in the West-Indies, with their crops and their negroes.

We shall now take a slight review of this gentleman's conduct in another character.

At a meeting of Common Hall on Midsummer-day, 1783, Mr. Skinner was put in nomination to serve the office of Sheriff of London for the year ensuing. The circumstance was unknown to him, and unexpected by the Livery. Yet so well was he known, and so highly esteemed, that he was elected to the office by a vast majority. The intelligence of this honour was actually first announced to him at the distance of thirty miles from the metropolis.

At this period Mr. Skinner was in the prime of life, and in the full possession of health and vigour. He received this mark of the confidence and respect of the Liverymen of London in a manly and becoming manner. Though it was not sought by him, he did not shrink from the duties which it imposed. He had, prior to this event, taken into partnership Mr. Dyke and Mr. Jaques; the former of whom had been his apprentice, and had ever since continued in his employ. On Mr. Dyke, therefore, devolved the principal weight of their business, whilst Mr. Skinner devoted, with exemplary zeal, the whole of his time and attention to the duties of that important station to which he was now appointed.

The most conspicuous feature of the year in which he was Sheriff was the dissolution of the Parliament, and the election of a new one. The spirit of party was never more violent. The illustrious statesman, who had then been newly stripped of power, had in every part of the kingdom numerous friends who espoused

poused his interest, and the interest of his supporters, and strenuously exerted themselves in securing their re-election to Parliament. On the other hand, the supporters of the new ministry were equally zealous in their opposition. This contest was carried to a violent extreme in the metropolis, where consequently Mr. Skinner, in his situation of returning officer, had a difficult and very delicate duty to perform. The sincere friend and confessed admirer of Mr. Fox, and a staunch supporter of the Whig interest, his whole heart was with the friends of that great statesman. Added to which, the two Whig candidates for the city, Aldermen Newnham and Sawbridge, were also his particular friends. He had even promised, previously to his being elected Sheriff, to conduct the business of Alderman Newnham's election; and notwithstanding his labours at Guildhall, and at Brentford, where the Middlesex election was carried on, he filled the office of Chairman in Mr. Newnham's Committee, and was, beyond all doubt, a principal means of carrying the election in favour of that gentleman and Mr. Sawbridge.

In the election for Middlesex his interest at this time was still more preponderating. Of so much consequence did the celebrated Wilkes consider it, that he once observed to a friend, "If any man wishes to be member for Middlesex he must make his bow to Mr. Skinner." Here also he had the same delicate task to perform; for Mr. Byng, the Whig candidate, was one of his most intimate friends. Yet so admirably did he blend his public duties and
his

his private feelings together, that even the rival candidates themselves subscribed to his justice, honour, and impartiality.

There is, perhaps, no part of the duty of a Sheriff so painful as that which imposes upon him the superintendence of the prisons, and the execution of criminals. The regulations which Mr. Skinner effected in the gaol of Newgate, and the two compters, have produced such wholesome effects, that the debtor and the felon will ever have cause to be grateful for his exertions. To his humane interference also the inhabitants of the metropolis are indebted for the discontinuance of a spectacle which was at once revolting to the feelings of the beholders, and barbarous to the wretched victims of offended justice in their last awful hour. The spectacle to which we allude was, that of dragging culprits condemned to death in carts, or on sledges, from Newgate through the most populous streets of London, to be executed at Tyburn. This most afflicting sight is now confined to the gates of Newgate:

Many less services of Mr. Skinner to the community during his sheriffalty, we are compelled to pass over; but we cannot omit this opportunity of refuting a charge, which Peter Pindar, with a most unwarrantable stretch of poetic licence, and, as we are inclined to think, merely for the sake of a rhyme, has coupled with the name of Mr. Skinner. The story Peter tells runs thus—That some sheep belonging to a certain great personage having died, without the knife of the butcher, were sent to Fleet-market
for

for sale. "The news," says Peter, "of this same mutton—

Design'd for many a London dinner,
Reach'd the fair ears of Master Sheriff Skinner,
Who, with a hammer, and a conscience clear,
Gets glory and ten thousand pounds a year;
And who, if things go tolerably fair,
Will rise one day proud London's proud Lord Mayor.

The Alderman was in his pulpit shining,
'Midst gentlemen with night-caps, hair, and wigs;
In language most rhetorical defining
The sterling merit of a lot of pigs:
When suddenly the news was brought,
That in Fleet Market were unwholesome sheep,
Which made the Preacher from his pulpit leap,
As nimble as a taylor, or as thought.

For justice panting, and unaw'd by fears,
This King, this Emperor of Auctioneers
Set off—a furious face indeed he put on—
Like lightning did he gallop up Cheapside!
In thunder down through Ludgate did he ride,
To catch the man who sold this dreadful mutton.

Now to Fleet Market, full of wrath, he came,
And with the spirit of an ancient Roman,
Exceeded, I believe, by no man,
The Alderman, so virtuous, cry'd out "Shame!"

"D—mme," to Robinson, said Master Skinner,
"Who on such mutton, Sir, can make a dinner?"
"You, if you please,"

Cry'd Mr. Robinson, with perfect ease.

"Sir!" quoth the red-hot Alderman again—
"You!" quoth the Hind, in just the same cool strain.
"Off, off," cry'd Skinner, "with your carrion heap;
"Quick, d—mme, take away yovr nasty shoep!"

"Whilst I command, not e'en the King

" Shall such vile stuff to market bring,

" And London stalls such garbage put on ;

" So take away your stinking mutton."

" You," reply'd Robinson, " you cry out ' Shame !'

" You blast the sheep, good Master Skinner, pray ;

" You give the harmless mutton a bad name !

" You impudently order it away !

" Sweet Master Alderman, don't make this rout :

" Clap on your spectacles upon your snout ;

" And then your keen, surveying eyes regale

" With those same fine large letters on the cart

" Which brought this blasted mutton here for sale,"

Poor Skinner read, and read it with a start.

Like Hamlet, frighten'd at his father's ghost,

The Alderman stood staring like a post ;

He saw G. R. inscrib'd, in handsome letters,

Which prov'd the sheep belong'd unto his betters.

The Alderman now turn'd to deep reflection ;

And being blest with proper recollection,

Exclaim'd, " I've made a great mistake—Oh ! sad ;

" The sheep are really not so bad.

" Dear Mister Robinson, I beg your pardon ;

" Your Job-like patience I've borne hard on.

" Whoever says the mutton is not good,

" Knows nothing, Mr. Robinson, of food ;

" I verily believe I could turn glutton,

" On such neat, wholesome, pretty-looking mutton.

" Pray, Mister Robinson, the mutton sell—

" I hope, Sir, that his Majesty is well."

So saying, Mister Robinson he quitted,

With cherubimic smiles and placid brows,

For such embarrassing occasions, fitted—

Adding just five-and-twenty humble bows.

To work went Robinson to sell the sheep;
But people would not buy except dog cheap.
At length the sheep were sold—without the fleece;
And brought King George just half-a-crown a-piece.

The whole of this story is a mere invention of the poet. Nothing can be more unlike the character of Mr. Skinner than the part assigned him in this tale. That the wholesome and plentiful supplies of the markets was an object of his study in his sheriffalty is most true, and it is equally true, that if any improper practice whatever had reached his ears it would have met from him its merited punishment, however shielded or sanctioned it might have been.

On the death of Mr. Bates in 1785, Mr. Skinner was a second time invited by the ward of Queenhithe to become their Alderman. This honour, which he had formerly declined, he then accepted; a step to which he was no doubt the more readily induced from the experience which he had received of the attention and ability of his partner, Mr. Dyke, in conducting the concerns of the house.

The death of Mr. Sawbridge occasioning a vacancy for a seat in Parliament, Alderman Skinner was pressed by a very numerous party of the Livery to offer himself a candidate; and there is no doubt that if he had thought proper to have complied with their wishes, he would have succeeded. Whether it be that a diffidence of his own talents, or an indisposition to the tame duties of attendance in the House, swayed his determination on this point, we cannot say; but we know that he has uniformly persevered

in refusing similar overtures, which have several times been made to him. About this time the high price of that necessary article of consumption coals, attracted his particular attention. He made it his business to investigate the cause of the enormous advance in price as well as the scarcity of this article, and as a member of the Coal Committee was unremitting and indefatigable in his labours. We have reason to believe that the commutation, which soon after was effected between the nation and the Duke of Richmond, respecting the revenue which his Grace received from coals, was in consequence of the measures which he promoted.

In the year 1794, he was called to the civic chair.

Perhaps no period of the History of London can be named when vigilance and ability in its chief magistrate were more necessary than during the mayoralty of Mr. Skinner.

At the moment of his election, a vast majority of the nation were under the influence of a species of political alarm, and so potent were its effects, that it spread delusion as well as terror wherever it was sounded. It had conjured up so foul a mist in the minds of men, that images of horror rose at the bare mention of the Rights of Freedom. Words of the most opposite meaning became synonymous. This delusion respecting measures naturally extended itself to men. No distinction could these alarmists perceive between a Bedford or an Orleans, a Fox or a Robespierre. And as the bold adherence of these statesmen to the genuine uncorrupted principles of
British

British freedom was branded with the charge of a revolutionizing spirit, so the unshaken attachment of their friends to them, and to their cause, was stigmatized as little less than sedition.

Such was the temper of the times when Mr. Skinner was entrusted with the custody of the metropolis. His political tenets had undergone no change since the period of his sheriffalty ; interest could not invite, cowardice could not frighten, calumny itself could not compel him to desert the standard of Fox and Freedom.

This fact being universally known, no sooner was he invested with his city honours, than the trumpet of alarm sounded that London was under the controul of a Jacobin Lord Mayor.

The first act of his mayoralty evinced with how much merited contempt he treated the puerile pastime of nick-naming. It is a very ancient custom of the city to invite the Ministers of State, and the High Officers of the Crown, to dine with the new chief magistrate at Guildhall on Lord Mayor's Day. This invitation was given to, and accepted as a matter of course by Mr. Pitt, the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Portland, Lord Grenville, Mr. Dundas, and the rest of the Cabinet. At the same table, by Mr. Skinner's personal invitation, and as his personal friends, were seated, Mr. Fox, the Dukes of Bedford and Norfolk, Lord Thurlow, Lord Derby, Lord Lauderdale, Mr. Erskine, Mr. Whitbread, Mr. Grey, and all the distinguished Members of both Houses in the interest of opposition.

Such an assemblage of men illustrious by rank, birth, or talents, had never before graced the table of any Lord Mayor.

The next part of Mr. Skinner's public conduct which merits attention is, that which relates to the State Trials at the Old Bailey. The predecessor of Mr. Skinner had deemed it necessary, for the preservation of the peace, during the trial of Horne Tooke, to line the Old Bailey with the military. Upon the continuation of these trials, the new Lord Mayor politely refused the proffered services of the soldiers. For this act he was severely censured by the ministerial journalists, and, if we are rightly informed, an attempt was made by high authority to compel him to adopt the military regime. He continued, however, to preserve the peace of the metropolis through the whole of his mayoralty by the aid of the civil power alone. This and other parts of his conduct raised him to the highest degree of popularity. The hospitality of his table, and the splendour of his entertainments at the Mansion House, though at least equal to any of his predecessors, are objects which have only a minor claim to notice, eclipsed as they were by the inflexible integrity and patriotic independence with which he discharged every function of a chief magistrate. After a year of most fatiguing duties he resigned that office, amidst the applause of the poor, and the approbation of all ranks. Since this period, we lament to say, that an ill state of health, and the loss of a most amiable wife, have deprived the public in a great measure of this gentleman's services.

On Michaelmas Day 1799, Mr. Skinner was again returned by the Livery of London, in conjunction with Mr. Coombe, to the Court of Aldermen, for their choice of one of them to be Lord Mayor, when the Court elected the former a second time in preference to Mr. Coombe, who had not served the office. This decision of the Court of Aldermen Mr. Skinner firmly resisted, by refusing to serve the second time that office, which he had so recently and honourably discharged.

The perseverance of the Livery in returning to the Court of Aldermen these two gentlemen only, and the firmness of Mr. Skinner in refusing to serve the office, at length fixed Alderman Coombe in the chief magistracy of the city. At present Mr. Skinner divides his time between attention to the engagements of his business, the duties of an Alderman, and the comforts of domestic retirement.

DR. JAMES ANDERSON.

DR. JAMES ANDERSON is a native of Scotland. His father was a farmer, of whom it was his misfortune to be deprived when a youth. On the death of the father the care of a large family, as well as a considerable farm, demanded the attention of the son: so that in the author of the *Agricultural Essays* we contemplate not a mere gentleman farmer, writing essays for his amusement, but one, who, from very early life, has been an experimental farmer, and

who has directed all his literary attainments to illustrate agriculture.

Dr. Anderson, while young, happened to read Home's *Essay on Agriculture*, but could not understand it through his ignorance of chemistry; he therefore determined to study that science, and became the disciple of the celebrated Dr. Cullen, managing, while yet a stripling, a farm in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, and attending Dr. Cullen's chemical lectures in the university, at the same time. Still, however, on account of his extreme youth, he was only private pupil, though a very favourite one, of Dr. Cullen's; but, being properly prepared by such an instructor, he proceeded to attend public lectures, and soon became a very successful student.

Passing over many years of Dr. Anderson's life, employed in agriculture, and furnishing but little that would diversify the page of biography, we shall direct our attention to such objects as entitle him to a place among the public characters of Great Britain: and this will lead us to little more than the giving a summary of his agricultural and other publications.

The first literary work of this author was accidental and anonymous. A friend of his who had some concern in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, applied to him to furnish a few articles for that work; which he accordingly did. Of this number is the article *Dictionary*, in the first edition of the *Encyclopædia*.

In the same work the article *Winds* was written by him, included in the subsequent edition under *Pneumatics*.

matics. Here the causes of the monsoons were first explained; and it may be worth while to remark, that Dr. Anderson's observations were written at least six months before Captain Cook's return from the first voyage of discovery. In this article he asserted that from the nature of the winds then known in the Southern Hemisphere, no continent could be found in that hemisphere near the tropical regions, but that New Holland would be found to consist of a large island, principally land.

The article *Smoaky Chimneys*, in that Dictionary, was also written by him, and from this the patentee of the bath stoves first derived his idea.

The favourable manner in which these anonymous essays were received, induced the author to amuse his winter evenings with exercises of this kind, while in the country. These were immediately transmitted to the editor of the Weekly Magazine, a miscellany printed at that time in Edinburgh. They appeared in that work under various signatures; Agricola, Timoleon, Germanicus, Cimon, Scoto-Britannicus, E. Aberdeen, Henry Plain, Impartial, A Scot, A Hater of Impudence, Pedantry and Affectation, &c.

These essays were received by the people of the country, for whose use they were principally intended, with such flattering marks of approbation, that the author was encouraged, at the solicitation of Dr. John Gregory, to publish a volume of Essays on Agriculture and Rural Affairs, which appeared in 1775. This also was an anonymous publication; but a second edition being speedily called for, it was re-printed

re-printed in 1776, with an additional volume. To these he prefixed his name, and a dedication to his respected friend and patron, Dr. Cullen. In 1777 appeared in quarto *Letters on the means of exciting a Spirit of National Industry*, with a particular reference to Scotland. This work introduced him to the acquaintance of Dr. Adam Smith. He controverts in it several of that celebrated writer's opinions concerning the corn-trade, and, as experience has proved, with great justice.

Our author had now established a considerable literary reputation ; in consequence of which the University of Aberdeen conferred on him the honorary degrees of A. M. and LL. D. These distinctions were obtained without the smallest solicitation on his part, and even without any previous information to him from the University.

Besides his works separately published, and now on sale, there are two which have been long out of print, viz. "An Inquiry into the Causes which have retarded the Progress of Agriculture in Europe," 4to. and "An Inquiry into the Corn Laws; with a view to the new Corn Bill proposed for Scotland, anno 1777," 8vo. A small volume was also printed and circulated by him among his friends, in 1783, but never published, entitled, "A Proposal for establishing the Northern British Fisheries; in which the circumstances that have hitherto frustrated every attempt to establish these fisheries are investigated, and measures suggested by which the obstructions may be removed." Unfortunately for the author, this

this volume attracted the notice of Government, and in the beginning of 1784, application was made to him to undertake a survey of the Hebrides, with a view to the establishment of the fisheries. After some hesitation he consented to go, though not till he had expressly stipulated that he should be properly paid for his time and trouble. This produced the Report to the Commissioners of the Treasury, &c. which has been since published in Dr. Anderson's account of the Hebrides. This Report occasioned his being summoned to attend the Committee of Fisheries in Parliament, in 1785, in which way his time was wholly occupied for the course of a year, to the no small detriment of his private affairs: and though his Report obtained the most unequivocal approbation of all the parties interested in that business, and procured him the most honourable reception in the Committee of Parliament and elsewhere, yet he was not able, nor has it ever yet been in his power, to obtain one farthing on account of his time and trouble in that service. No person, it seems, in his situation can obtain redress by law; for it is now established by the opinion of the best counsel, that "no action
" at law can lie against a Minister of State to compel
" him to fulfil any agreement made by him officially
" with individuals:" a circumstance that certainly cannot be too well known. For men of talents who spend their time and their property in a particular service, ought to be well informed beforehand what hold they have on the persons with whom the bargain is made; otherwise their engagements may turn out
hazardous

hazardous experiments, and their speculations may end in their utter ruin.

In the above-mentioned pamphlet the Doctor had occasion to controvert a position started by Dr. Franklin, and adopted by Dr. Price, as well as others, concerning the benefits to be derived to Britain in consequence of sending people to America. He thought it his duty to send a copy of it to Dr. Price, who politely made the following ingenuous return : " The notice Dr. Anderson has taken of an assertion " of Dr. Price's gives him no room for any other sentiment than that of gratitude ; in that assertion he " followed Dr. Franklin, and he is now disposed to " think he did it too hastily," (see account of the Hebrides, page 114, note). In a note in the Account of the Hebrides, page 104, he alludes to a correspondence in the Gentleman's Magazine with Mr. Hewlett.

During the American contest, Dr. Anderson was requested by Lord Mansfield to write on the subject. He declined it for a considerable time, knowing that he should be obliged to draw conclusions contrary not only to the wishes of his Lordship, but contrary also to public opinion. But when the news of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis's army reached this country, he began to think the public might be more inclined to listen to his arguments. He then wrote his thoughts on that subject, which he sent off directly to London, to be published in a pamphlet, under the title of " The Interest of Great Britain " with regard to her American Colonies considered."

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The conclusions drawn from his arguments were, that our American Colonies, instead of promoting the trade and manufactures of Great Britain, have tended, in a most powerful manner, to depress them ; that instead of adding strength and stability to the empire, they have necessarily in a great degree weakened it, and exposed it to the most imminent danger ; that, therefore, the settling of these colonies at first was unwise, and the subsequent encouragement impolitic. The same position had been advanced by that acute political and commercial writer Dean Tucker, but with no other effect than that of being universally ridiculed.

In 1790, a very liberal publication was set on foot, in Scotland, by Dr. Anderson, entitled, " The Bee, " or Literary Intelligencer." This continued to be published as a weekly miscellany for many years. It consisted of sketches of biography and poetry, stories illustrative of human manners, translations from foreign languages, ancient and modern, and other miscellaneous matter. It proceeded through many volumes, and is a repository of many literary curiosities. Dr. Anderson wrote much in this work himself.

The last of Dr. Anderson's publications is entitled, " Selections from the Correspondence of General " Washington, by James Anderson, LL. D. &c." This is a valuable pamphlet, and contains some judicious remarks on the causes of the late scarcity.

Dr. Anderson still passes his time in literary pursuits, especially such as are friendly to the study of agriculture. He has lately been, and is still printing
a monthly

a monthly publication entitled, *Agricultural Recreations*, consisting of essays on rural subjects, natural history, &c. This work is also occasionally diversified, though but sparingly, with poetry, generally original, or if not entirely new, yet carefully and judiciously selected.

The manners of this ingenious and very useful man are plain and frank, indicative of an honest and good heart : he is benevolent and generous ; a tender parent, and a warm friend ; and very highly respected in the circle of his acquaintance.

THE PRINCE DE BOUILLON.

Interspersed with some anecdotes of the Island of Jersey.

AN uninformed Englishman, biassed by the prejudices of a defective education, takes it for granted that a Prince must necessarily be of the blood royal, because, in his own country, he sees none dignified with that title but such as are either direct or collateral branches of the family on the throne. He has no idea that the all-powerful *fiat* of Majesty can create a Prince as easily as a Duke or an Earl, and will therefore, on the above-mentioned principle, no doubt, forwardly conclude, that the illustrious personage who is the subject of the present narrative, must needs be lineally descended from the same august stock with the late ill-fated Sovereign of France. And so indeed he is ; but it is in the same sense that
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the writer of these memoirs, and each of his readers might, by only tracing their several pedigrees back to the main root, be proved to be all equally allied to Ancus Martius or Numa Pompilius.

Philip d'Auvergne, Prince of Bouillon, and Captain of the Bravo gun-boat, of sixteen guns, was born in the town of St. Helier, in the island of Jersey.—The family, though not reckoned of the first order, or one of those most eminent in that island for ancient lineage,* and the “boast of heraldry,” is, ne-

* Like all obscure little people, involved in helpless and profound ignorance, and but just emerged from absolute indigence, with whom pride and poverty still supply the place of rational information and liberal sentiments, those of Jersey are, perhaps beyond other mortals, the most vain,—not of the merits of their ancestors, but of the antiquity of their families; in which respect they outstrip even the Welsh themselves. To the same cause must be attributed their passion for titles. When Rollo the Norman subdued that island, he divided it into little fiefs or seignories, which he bestowed in the nature of feudal tenures on such of his officers as chiefly signalized themselves on that occasion. To this very day the descendants of those adventurers retain not only the hereditary manorial titles, but whatever other casual appellatives have successively distinguished their respective families through a series of ages. So that, literally speaking, several of them have at present more titles than acres of land.

To have a tolerable idea of the Jersey nobility, it will not be sufficient barely to recollect what one sometimes reads or hears of the Italian *Illustrissimi* in certain instances. The Norman progeny far transcends whatever is related of the successors of the *Æmilii*, the *Drusi*, the *Scipios* and the *Cæsars*. It is no unusual thing to see a Jersey lord drive his own cart for his daily hire, tend his masons or his thatcher to save the expence of an additional workman, or else winnowing his own corn, in a chequered shirt, and with an old handkerchief tied round his head,

vertheless, closely connected with the very best there, especially the Le Geyt, and Dumaresque families, the former not a little remarkable for having given birth

head, or a ragged nightcap. It were nugatory to mention my Lord Norman, or my Lord La Hole as examples, where there are so many more who answer the description still better if possible.

But to any one acquainted with their real circumstances and manner of living, nothing can appear more truly ridiculous than their disputes about the right of precedency. These have been sometimes carried to such a height, that a judicial adjudication, either in the assembly of the states, or in their petty court (called, in the ordinary strain of *Crapaud* pomposity, *the Royal Court of Jersey*) has been found necessary to decide the arduous and important contest.

But as these first-rate distinctions can appertain only to a few, and as the rest would be completely and utterly miserable without some title besides the universal one of *Crapaud*, which they detest, or that still more odious, more shocking, more abominable one of *Norman*, their exemplary modesty obliges them to rest satisfied with that of Captain, which is both more humble and less difficult of access, and of which the number in that island is scarcely conceivable. Nay, they are almost all Captains. A camp of three hundred thousand fighting men could not furnish so many Captains as the little *Isle de Jersey*. As very few of them ever enter into the army (for we do not reckon the island militia under that denomination), and fewer still attain to any rank or distinction in it; their proper element, the sea, affords them a much better opportunity of gratifying their favourite vanity. Yet even there the regular course of promotion in the King's service would be at the best tedious, and always uncertain. It might also be now and then attended with some degree of personal hazard besides that of drowning, and which they would wish to avoid by all possible means, for they are not over and above fond of scars or deadly cutaneous incisions; and, after all, the greater number would pine away in
hopeless

to some of the most worthy, and the latter to many of the most worthless characters to be found in the annals of any country. His father, the late Charles d'Auvergne, Esq. was a person of no inconsiderable respectability, and was always regarded as such. We are told he held a commission in the island militia, (which, however, is a matter not of emolument but expence to the possessor) and had besides discharged some of the civil offices of the state, without the stigma of censure. He was possessed of a handsome property in land, sufficient at least to put a man no way remarkable for profusion or headless expence above the reach of want or precarious dependence; but which, considerable as it might be thought in that island, was far from being equal to the support

hopeless obscurity, without the consolation of a single solitary title. To obviate these difficulties and dangers, not only the commanders of armed vessels belonging to themselves, such as their little privateers, cutters, luggers, schooners, &c. but every master of every common trader, and even of every Newfoundland fishing-boat, is called Captain, and would be highly offended if accosted or addressed by any other.

Next to nobility, the title of Esquire is the primary object of their ambition, money alone excepted. A crippled old fellow, hardly able to move thirty paces without the help of a stick or crutch, will strain every nerve, and employ the interest and influence of all his friends to get himself appointed to the command of a small redoubt of only two guns, even for twenty-four hours; and that for no other reason than merely the honour of having the three letters Esq. placed after his name.

So that upon the whole two-thirds of the male population of that island are composed of Lords without rank, Esquires without property, and Captains without command!

of a numerous family in any genteel or even decent style, much less to afford laying by a comfortable provision for their future establishment in life.

To remedy these disadvantages as far as in him lay Mr. d'Auvergne availed himself of the common resource adopted by all the Jersey people in similar circumstances, and embarked in trade; not ostensibly in his own name so much as being concerned in private associations or trading little companies, or else under the firm of some reputable house: and this occupation he followed for a number of years with a very fair character, much respected and esteemed as a gentleman and man of business, for his known probity and the suavity and urbanity of his manners.

Philip, the subject of these pages, and the eldest of six or seven children, of whom five at least are still living, and not one ever married, had been early destined for the sea; and this profession he was led to make choice of, not only by a strong predilection for that element, but also in compliance with the earnest wishes of his friends, who observed, or thought they observed, striking prognostics of future greatness in the youth. And indeed, even in his boyish days, he attracted no small degree of notice by a peculiar air of consequence and self-importance above the ordinary level of children of his age, and discovered evident symptoms of an aspiring genius. Both in his countenance and whole carriage there was something far beyond his years, which plainly indicated, if not entirely what he was to be, at least what he wished to be. His native isle offered nothing
that

that could at all satisfy that boundless ambition which his little soul had been taught to cherish from his infancy. There appeared no prospect of his ever rising to the dignity either of a Lord* or a Lieutenant Bailiff :†—it was therefore resolved he should be an Admiral.

But notwithstanding his early choice of a profession which might, in the vulgar opinion, be imagined to afford neither leisure nor opportunity sufficient for laying in any very ample or solid store of intellectual acquirements, his education was not neglected : and we are accordingly told of the forward promptitude of his juvenile powers, and of the rapid advances he made in school learning, first in England,‡ and after-

* That is to say, a Jersey Lord, or seignior de fief.

† The Chief Magistrate or President of the Royal Court, equivalent both to a Seneschal and Justice of the Peace with us.

‡ In Jersey the education of youth is less attended to, and, consequently, is at a much lower ebb than in any other part of the British dominions, at least in Europe, if we except the neighbouring island of Guernsey. Hence, in order to have their children qualified for shop-keeping, and the other inferior branches of mercantile business (as to commerce on a liberal and extensive scale, they have no idea of it), not having that opportunity at home, they are sent to some of our obscure country schools, and mostly to Yorkshire, on account of the comparative cheapness of accommodation there ; but removed at the end of a year or two, or as soon as they are able to write a plain legible hand, and have acquired some slender notion of the first easy rules of common arithmetic.

This necessity is not owing to the want of schools in that island (for there are schools without number, and of all prices, from five to nine, ten, and even twelve sols or sous, that is, from twopence halfpenny to sixpence, and in one or two in-

wards in France, where he chiefly pursued and finally completed his studies. In his naval career, and on the great theatre of public life, he has been much more

stances upwards per week); but because no consideration whatever will prevail on them to give any certain or permanent encouragement to a person properly qualified and capable of instructing their children. None of themselves are in any tolerable degree fit for the undertaking; and no talents or qualifications, however eminent, will recommend a stranger to countenance or favour among them. Should a new adventurer be imprudent or presumptuous enough to charge sixpence, he can have no chance of succeeding, while there are so many Jersey professors who demand only fourpence halfpenny a week.

From this grovelling principle of sordid economy, that general ignorance which makes so prominent a feature in the character of that little people, is not much to be wondered at: yet a few of them have, now and then, been known to make some proficiency in the two learned languages, and even to take a degree at Oxford. But these instances are extremely rare, though we could mention some splendid ones.

The severest misfortune experienced by that island for at least a century back, in that most essential respect, was the death of the late Mrs. Falle, mother of the clergyman of that name. That good old lady had kept a school for many years in the town of St. Helier, the capital of the island, where, though quite blind during the latter part of her life, she taught spelling, reading, and *writing*, in both Jersey French and Jersey English, and *needle-work*, with universal approbation and applause. So serious a loss must be the more sensibly felt on account of the difficulty, if not absolute impossibility, of repairing it by a successor of equal merit and abilities, unless Mrs. Margaret Cuppaidge condescended to offer her services. And did not the penury of their narrow dispositions obliterate all sense of gratitude in that selfish race, they would long since have raised a monument to her memory, as a small testimony of their affection and regard, if they can be supposed capable of any such refined sensations: no

successful than in the still recesses of contemplative retirement. Having (we shall suppose) by unremitting attention to the duties of his station, and the regularity, propriety, and steadiness of his conduct upon all occasions, secured the entire approbation and esteem of all under whom and with whom he served, he was at length, by regular and due course of promotion, appointed to the command of the *Bravo*, a *guarda costa* gun-boat of sixteen guns.

But it was not from a whole age of anxious expectation, nor from the slow gradation of progressive advancement in naval service, nor from the liberality of the British Government, nor from the influence of his family connexions, Captain D'Auvergne was to hope for that elevation so delightful to the heart of man, and acceptable even to the most humble and unambitious; and with the faintest prospect of which not the partial surmises of his fondest admirers could have flattered him, nor all the golden dreams of youthful fancy have once conjured up to solace or amuse his longing imagination. To another country and another people, to private friendship, or, with more propriety, the doating whim of superannuated imbecility, we are to look for the source of that dignity which places him, in some measure, on a level with the first order of nobility in this country, and makes him be regarded as the prime luminary that gilds with

such as that erected by his first-born, and the principal surviving hope of an illustrious house, to the manes of Mr. Owen Hogan, the Irish attorney; but one of somewhat a more solid and lasting kind.

the splendid effulgence of his glory the contracted horizon of his own. It was in France that his happy star ascendant at his natal hour ordained he should lay the foundation both of his fortune and his fame: but Mars rising with fiery and malignant aspect in opposition, eyed the rich prize, and snatched the better half away.

In a preceding passage it hath been observed, that he received the principal part of his education in that country. Thither also it had been customary with him to go and pass a few months every year, when he could be spared from the necessary avocations of his duty. It had, indeed, long been the country of his choice, and where, from the force of early predilection, he would wish to have lived, had things remained in the same state they were heretofore; or in any change, order, or disorder, could he but retain his present title and the possessions which once belonged to it; and where he would not have the least objection to leave his bones in peace till summoned by the final trumpet. By the help of such recommendations as could be procured from his friends in Jersey, together with the acquaintance he had himself established there, it cannot be unreasonable to conclude he found little or no difficulty in forming a pretty large circle of genteel connexions. This was at that time much more easily done in France than perhaps any where else, nothing more being required than some kind of introduction, a little proper assurance, and to be able to appear in the style and character of a gentleman. It was his lot to be introduced to the acquaintance of
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the late Prince de Bouillon, a nobleman who, with a princely income, kept a princely table, had a princely retinue, and saw some princely company, as well as a good deal more who, like opaque bodies which have no proper light of their own, but shine only with the reflection of borrowed light; could only claim that distinction while they enjoyed the honour of his society. Having lived rather too freely in the gay season of youth, he had never been linked in the bands of Hymen, nor incumbered with the cares of a family, and was, at the time alluded to, considerably past the zenith of life.

We here give the most generally received statement of this matter, although some well informed persons would have it that this intimacy commenced at a much earlier period than that assigned above, when they were both educated together, and had the same instructors. This, it must be confessed, is no improbable account of the affair, and such as, were we at liberty to indulge conjecture in the case, and to interpose our private opinion, we should be most disposed to subscribe to. However that might have been, Captain D'Auvergne neglected no opportunity of cultivating the friendship and good opinion of a nobleman of his high rank and powerful patronage. The acquaintance of such a man was too flattering to be slighted or regarded with indifference. He had every encouragement to improve the advantage he had gained. In all his visits he was constantly well received, and treated with peculiar marks of kindness and attention. Those who are not acquainted

quainted with the more minute particulars will be greatly at a loss to account for this extraordinary partiality, till they are informed that his being of the same name with that nobleman proved no small, but rather his very best recommendation.

But those happy days of social intercourse could not last for ever. Sad experience shews us that princes themselves must submit to the inexorable decrees of fate as well as inferior mortals. In process of time his Serene Highness found, at length, by some odd, and with him, unusual symptoms, that his end was at no great distance. We do not wish to have it understood to be meant as any reflection on his memory, when we observe that he too had his little prejudices in common with the wisest and best of men, whose passions and judgments are often swayed more by empty sounds than realities. Even at the awful crisis of approaching dissolution he did not lose a becoming regard to the future glory of an antient and honourable house. He was desirous that the title and family fortune should still continue in the same name to which they had been attached for ages back ; but then he had no heir of his own body, nor any other near enough of kin who could urge a legal and indisputable claim ; whether owing to casual infirmity or radical debility, or else to the want of provident and timely care, we do not pretend to say. This circumstance, however, gave him little uneasiness. The case was not a desperate one. He had an easy and a ready resource in that right which the laws gave him of supplying by adoption the successor,

cessor, which nature or chance had denied him. Of this privilege he did not long hesitate to avail himself, and accordingly turned his eyes on Captain Philip D'Auvergne, to whom by his last will and testament he bequeathed the title of Prince the Bouillon, together with either the whole, or the far greater part of his remaining property, both real and personal, his estates, villas, chateaux, &c. &c. amounting in the whole, according to some estimates, to 20,000*l.* or upwards; but with more appearance of probability, to not more than 8000*l.* sterling, or 192,000 livres per ann. according to others. And thus, by the oddest chance imaginable, without the least affinity, or the most remote connection in any assignable degree of kindred, but merely by the lucky accident of a name, was this singular event brought about.

The only thing that now remained to crown all his wishes, and fill up the measure of his felicity to the brim, was to obtain his Sovereign's permission to enjoy his new dignity, and indulge in the luxurious sweets of his splendid fortune and elevated rank: and, accordingly, the proper application being made for that purpose, his Majesty was graciously pleased to grant his royal letters patent, authorizing and empowering Captain Philip D'Auvergne to assume the title and adopt the armorial bearings of his Serene Highness the late Prince de Bouillon; and in all other respects confirming the munificent bequest, as fully and completely, to all intents and purposes, as royal letters patent could possibly do. Nor was this the only mark of royal favour he experienced much
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about the same time, being either then, or very shortly after, appointed to the sole command of the naval department on the Jersey station.

But, alas ! how frail and transitory is human bliss ! How fleeting the most certain possession of all sublunary enjoyments ! Just at this time the revolution broke out, and it fared with our titular Prince as it did with tens and hundreds of thousands more. The republicans had no objection whatever to his making use of the title and the painted escutcheon ; but, in lieu of the compliment, they kept the estates and the revenues to themselves.

The French emigrants were at one time so numerous in Jersey, that the inhabitants began to entertain serious apprehensions lest, conscious of their own strength, they should take it into their heads to seize upon the island altogether, and dispossess the natives : for it was found by calculation that there were as many French in the place as there were inhabitants, or even more ; and what might not rationally be apprehended from the restless spirit, characteristic treachery, and well-known duplicity of that artful and designing people ? A motion was therefore made in the Assembly of the States, that a memorial should immediately be drawn up and forwarded to Government, setting forth the danger of their situation from their formidable inmates, and praying to have them removed to some other quarter : but this resolution was not carried into effect : it was over-ruled by the suggestion and superior wisdom of one of the Messrs Hemery, of St Helier, merchants. Mr. He-
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mery had been employed from the beginning to issue the money for the subsistence of the emigrants in that island; and was sent for on that occasion to clear up some doubts that remained on the minds of that wise and august assembly, with regard to the policy of the measure then in agitation. He stated the amount of that subsidy at 100,000*l.* per annum, and strongly remonstrated against the idea of wantonly sending such a sum out of the island, from a groundless apprehension of what a number of poor, persecuted, and oppressed people possibly might attempt, though in direct and palpable opposition to their own most obvious present interest, and from which they could not ultimately hope to derive the least benefit. This argument had the desired effect: it was the *argumentum ad crumenam*, and in the opinion of Jerseymen unanswerable. It was, therefore, without further discussion or hesitation unanimously resolved, that the emigrants, or, in other words, the money should not be sent away, whatever the consequence might be.

Possibly the sum was not quite so great as Mr. Hemery made it, notwithstanding the very ample and liberal allowance those people had for the first five or six years, till 1798, when it underwent a considerable defalcation. His premium for his commission was no trifle, or at least such a trifle as no man in his right senses would willingly part with so long as he could conveniently keep it. Hence it is but reasonable to conclude he had an eye to his own interest, as much at any rate as to that of his country,

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in opposing any project for the removal of the emigrants; and might, for that reason, be disposed to magnify the total amount a little: and yet if we consider that, during the period alluded to, there were in that small island upwards of two thousand ecclesiastics, and heads of families, who received each from three to four, five, and some of them 6*l.* a month, besides an indefinite multitude of widows and single persons of both sexes, who were paid as regular as the rest, together with the Duke de Castries's fine regiment, consisting of about 700 effective men, with its full complement of officers: when these items are taken into the account, perhaps Mr. Hemery's report, instead of being thought exaggerated, will rather appear to come short of the real expenditure in the single article of British benevolence to Gallic sufferers in Jersey only.

At first the disbursement of this subsistence had been left to one or two of their own bishops. The subsequent conduct of those divines is already too well known to require a particular relation of it in this place. Finding themselves all at once in possession of more money than ever they had in their lives before, or ever expected again to have, they prudently listened to the maxim, that "Charity begins at home," and took their measures accordingly. To avoid those melancholy and affecting scenes, tender expostulations, and anxious solicitude, usual at the formal parting of dear and faithful friends, they took leave in the proper French style, they shifted their quarters without any ceremony, and left the rest to shift for themselves in the best manner they could.

That appointment becoming thus vacant, was conferred on his Serene Highness, and the emoluments he derived from it for some years have been variously estimated, and as variously accounted for. It were foreign from our present purpose to enter into a minute detail of the several alterations that have been made, and the schemes of distribution successively adopted and laid aside. This we know, that many of the emigrants themselves have been far from being entirely satisfied in every particular.

At present the number of French refugees in that island is but small, not above three or four hundred at the most: consequently the returns from this branch of finance cannot be very productive, if those numerical, monthly, or half-yearly musters sent for Government inspection can be depended on, as no doubt they may, while they exhibit only a state of gradual diminution.

The multitude of spies kept in constant pay there since the beginning of the war, and the incredible sums expended on secret services, proved another source of profit to his Serene Highness. But these too have been all, or for the most part, done away; and nothing now remains to the Prince but the heavy burden of sixty-four summers, and as many winters, the emoluments of his commission, and the gleanings of his former industry.

DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.

A SAGACIOUS delineator of manner has observed,* that “ the importance of private benevolence, or of tyranny, as exercised by the Esquire or Lord, or whatever other name or title the chief personage bears, in a small town or village, is beyond common calculation. He can almost give the part of the country where he is resident a new face: bid peace and comfort smile around his neighbourhood, or cover it with gloom. If his disposition leads him to benignity, the poorest hovel shall boast a cheerful hearth, and all his tenantry sport in his influence. At little cost he may exclude even the powers of envy from the bosoms of the lowly, and implant the more happy inmates of gratitude and joy. He may extend his generous sway, so far as to dispense amongst those over whom fortune has given him dominion, the lenitives of pain, the solaces of disease, and attemper death itself; nor are his good offices less eminently useful for the body than the soul: the wisdom of his precepts, or the example of his practice, discountenances the vice, and gives energy to the virtue of his dependents: their heads and their hearts thrive equally under his protectorship—and he includes in his character the philanthropist, the physician, the moralist, and the christian. It is, indeed, almost impossible to enumerate the degrees of felicity

* Pratt's Gleanings, vol. iv.

“ which may result from an intelligent, upright, and
“ benevolent country gentleman, whom Providence
“ has blessed with the means of doing good.”

It is not without a heart-felt pleasure we are furnished both with an illustration and an example of the foregoing remarks in the *practice* of the truly illustrious nobleman, whose memoirs will be the immediate object of our attention.

His Grace is paternally descended from a race of ancestors whose names are sacred to patriotism and their country; and by the maternal line from the great and glorious John Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough; whose victories raised the British name to such an eminence, that neither envy can tarnish nor time consign his laurels to oblivion. They may on his brow be truly deemed unfading and immortal.*

* By his Duchess, Sarah, daughter of Richard Jennings, Esq. of Sandridge, in the county of Hertford, John Duke of Marlborough had one son and four daughters.

In 1706, the manor and honour of Woodstock, with the palace of Blenheim, were annexed by act of Parliament to the inheritors of his Grace's honours and titles; which, as his son had died the preceding year, consequently went to his eldest daughter Henrietta, Lady of Lord Godolphin, and the heirs male of her body; and then to all the other daughters successively, according to priority of birth, and their respective heirs male.

Lady Godolphin dying without surviving issue, the title devolved on the son of the second daughter, Charles Spencer, the fifth Earl of Sunderland, with eight thousand pounds a year of the first Duke's estate; and, on the demise of his grandmother, Sarah, Duchess Dowager of Marlborough, on whom the palace of Blenheim, and manor of Woodstock, had been settled in jointure, he gained a vast accession of fortune.

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infinitely above the meanness of undue influence, either to humour a party, or gratify designing ambition.

In private life his Grace of Marlborough's character is so truly amiable, that it is difficult to say in what he is most excellent. He is an affectionate father, a tender husband, an indulgent master : and a generous patron of merit, industry, and science. His constant regard to the prosperity of the neighbouring University, and his noble benefactions, sufficiently prove his Grace's love of literature. In several of the sublimest studies the Duke of Marlborough has gained distinguished reputation. The elevating science of astronomy in him finds a munificent patron, and an able judge. His Grace has erected and fitted up an elegant observatory at Blenheim, where he devotes great part of those hours, which are with too many of our nobility so shamefully dissipated, in contemplating the works of Him *who tells the number of the stars, and calleth them by their names.*

The just taste of his Grace needs no eulogium ; let the most frigid observer visit his delightful pleasure-grounds, park, and lake, at Blenheim, and he will be compelled to feel an admiration, the acknowledgment of which it will be difficult for him to suppress ; while every refined and susceptible soul, on contemplating these beautiful scapes, must be lost in astonishment at viewing the chastity of design, and elegance of execution, so apparent in all those improvements which have been made under his Grace's patronage and immediate inspection.

V. 4

“ Elysian

"Elysian scene! by noble Spencer lov'd,
 Whose taste completes what Nature had approv'd:
 By him yon groves the russet slopes adorn,
 That catch the golden tinge of early morn;
 By him the blossom'd shrub, the blooming flow'r,
 From blended sweets reviving incense pour;
 By him the crystal lake is taught to stray,
 Where yielding vallies point a ready way;
 By him the rough cascade, with deafening roar,
 To liquid elements describe a shore;
 While winds the whiten'd wave through flow'ry meads,
 And silver swans disport among the reeds.

Illustrious name! to every virtue dear,
 Whom all the good must love, the bad revere;
 Unwarp'd by Grandeur's soft, seductive lure,
 And arm'd by Reason; from her arts secure;
 For once, from wild Caprice, kind Fortune free,
 Showers down her choicest gifts, unblam'd, on thee.
 'Tis not thy titles that command our love,
 'Tis not thy splendour that the wise approve;
 But 'tis thy native worth, thy noble mind,
 That glows with charity for all mankind!
 Wealth, power, and titles—pageants of a day,
 Ungrac'd with merit, shed a feeble ray.
 Soon sinks the fame, not rais'd on true desert,
 And all the praise that lives not in the heart;
 Soon sinks the pride from ancestry that flows—
 The splendid villains are but public shows;
 Awhile they blaze, and catch the simple eye,
 Then melt in air, like meteors in the sky;
 Not thus Nobility with worth conjoin'd—
 Its lustre spreads, and leaves a track behind.
 The gifts of fortune in a good man's power
 Are but the friendless wretch's certain dower;
 They raise the languid, wipe Affliction's tear,
 Such, noble MARLBOROUGH! shine thy bounties here.

Thrice happy man ! whom rural honours please,
 The charms of Science, and the sweets of ease.
 Blest with a RUSSEL's love, in whom combine
 The splendid virtues of her noble line ;
 Blest with an offspring, lovely as the day
 That opes the rosy morn of gentle May ;
 You hear, unmov'd, Ambition's sounding call,
 Mark her steep progress, and avoid her fall ;
 State's gilded trappings to the vain you leave,
 Nor court the plaudits which the bold receive ;
 The truest patriot in the man is seen,
 From each extreme you keep the golden mean.
 With genius warm'd, with independence blest,
 Your's are the joys which Virtue loves to taste ;
 The close-drawn ties, the Friend, the Father knows,
 The heart-felt bliss from mutual love that flows ;
 The generous glow Benevolence awakes,
 When cherish'd Merit blesses, and partakes."

MAJOR'S BLENHEIM.

Nor can we omit the following just and appropriate compliment to the Duchess, from the same elegant poem :—

" Bring ev'ry flower from Truth's perennial bed,
 To weave a crown for CAROLINA's head ;
 Depict each virtue beaming from her eye,
 Fond love, firm faith, and mild complacency ;
 Let every grace and every charm be seen,
 All that we love in BRITAIN's sacred queen :
 All that in CHARLOTTE can delight, endear,
 Then shall each heart confess a likeness here."

His Grace married the beautiful and highly accomplished Lady Caroline Russel, only daughter of John, late Duke of Bedford, on the 23d of August, 1762, by whom he has had issue three sons and four daughters. But, alas ! neither fortune, rank, nor
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any other distinction can avert the strokes of heart which happen to all. "The paths of glory lead but to the grave." In 1795, his Grace and the public met with a heavy loss in his second son, Lord Henry, who died Envoy and Plenipotentiary at Berlin. The historian of Blenheim has delineated his worth under the name of Marcellus, in words that honour both the living and the dead.

The Duke of Marlborough has still living two sons and five daughters. The youngest son, Lord Francis, and the youngest daughter, Lady Amelia, alone remain single. His eldest son, the Marquis of Blandford, who married the lovely Lady Susan Stewart, daughter of the Earl of Galloway, has already four sons and a daughter.

RIGHT HON. DAVID RAE,

LORD-JUSTICE-CLERK OF SCOTLAND.

DAVID RAE, the only son of the Rev. Mr. William Rae, a worthy Scottish clergyman of the Episcopal communion, was born in the year 1729.* His mother was the daughter of Sir David Forbes, an eminent lawyer, and uncle to the celebrated Duncan

* A remote ancestor of this gentleman, as we understand, and of the same name, William Rae, was Bishop of Glasgow, in the reign of Robert II. from 1335 to 1367. He was also the Pope's Legate in Scotland, and is said, in Archbishop Spottiswood's History, to have built the stone bridge at Glasgow, over the river Clyde. This monument of ancient architecture is still standing.

Forbes, Esq. of Culloden, Lord President of the Court of Session. The President's death in 1747, deprived his young relation of the advantages he might have reaped from the patronage and instructions of so distinguished a judge. Mrs. Rae, by her first marriage with a landed gentleman of the name of Douglas, had several children, the last survivor of whom was the late Lieutenant-General John Douglas, Colonel of the fifth regiment of dragoon guards: this officer died in 1790.

The grammar school of Haddington had attained a very high and deserved reputation under Mr. David Young, to whose tuition the rising hopes of many noble families were entrusted. Mr. Rae was also placed under his care, and boarded in his house, where he had the opportunity of contracting, in early youth, friendships which afforded many agreeable moments in his riper years, and which subsisted until interrupted by death; for, in the course of a long life, he has beheld many a noble and dear friend deposited in the tomb. Among others the two brothers, Walter and William, successively Lords Blantyre, were his particular friends; to the memory of the first of whom he wrote some elegiac verses, and to the other he dedicated his Latin thesis on passing trial on his being called to the bar.

From the school of Haddington he was removed to the university of Edinburgh, where he went through the usual routine of classes, after which, as he was early destined for the bar, he directed his attention to juridical studies. The mode of education of a Scottish

tish barrister is regulated by the laws of the corporate faculty of advocates. After proceeding through the humanities and faculties, names invented by the pedagogic barbarism of our ancestors, the young student attends, during one session, a course of lectures on the Institutes of Justinian; and in the ensuing session, a course on the Pandects. The first of these are read in the English language, and the second in the Latin. The third and last session is devoted to a course of lectures on the Scotch law; but previous to this the probationer undergoes an examination, carried on in Latin, on his proficiency in the civil law. After the last course, he is put on a similar examination, in English, on his knowledge in the municipal law of Scotland. The ultimate step is to support his Latin thesis *in foro publico*, after which he is admitted.

The chair of the civil law was at this time held by Professor Kenneth Mackenzie, an erudite scholar, a profound civilian, and, if we may use the expression, the last of the Romans; for, since his time, that study has been too much neglected, and the student now drags through it as a mere matter of course. The law of Scotland has two prime sources, the *corpus juris*, and those feudal institutions which, though modified by local usages, had one general and uniform aspect throughout Europe during the middle ages. From the civil legislation of Rome it has borrowed its most valuable portion; and, therefore, to become an intelligent lawyer, it is indispensably necessary to be a good civilian.

Posterity do not seem to have been sufficiently conscious of the benefits to be derived from the discovery of the Pandects at Amalfi. At that distant period the grossly absurd, and, what was more to be lamented, the sanguinary laws of feudalism oppressed and enslaved the western world. The multitude, ignorant and brutal, were chained to the soil;* and had, so to speak, lost their station in the scale of created beings: while the baron, surrounded by his vassals in arms, disdained the controul of laws, and, excepting a reluctant and uncertain obedience to the monarch, recognised no dominant power but superiority in the field. The monkish literature which then existed, was kept sacred from the unhallowed laity; and the small number of the clergy, who were versant in the learning of Greece and Rome, appeared like scattered stars whose vivid sparkling illumines the nocturnal gloom. It is to these few we are indebted for the Justinian code, the study of which they cultivated with avidity, and spread rapidly through the eastern and western empires. The liberal sentiments of justice, unfolded in the pages of the Pandects, were the refuge of the poor in opposing the licentious aggressions of the great. We no doubt remark reprehensible passages, such as the *patria potestas* in the Roman jurisprudence; but in what country shall we find a code of laws which, in all its parts, can bear the scrutiny of reason?

In 1750-1, Mr. Rae attended the lectures on the Scotch law, read by Professor John Erskine, the

* Villani, ascripti glebae.

learned author of the Institute, a work of real merit and utility, whether we consider the extent of jurisprudential research it displays, or its authority as a book of reference on points of common and statutory law. It comprises the whole extent of legal knowledge which the ordinary retainers in the Scottish courts require. Mr. Erskine's chair is now held by Professor David Hume, the nephew of the Historian, and author of four quarto volumes on crimes and punishments.

Mr. Rae was called to the bar in 1751, and although only in the twenty-second year of his age, and unaided by the adventitious circumstances of family interest or powerful patronage, soon raised himself into extensive practice. Besides the favourable opinion entertained of his abilities and application, he was remarkable for a most retentive memory, which enabled him, without taking notes, to repeat *verbatim* any interesting speech, though of considerable length. The possession of this faculty was of essential use, as a ready recollection presented him with the arguments of his opponent, and thus facilitated the arrangement of his answer.

The first great cause in which he distinguished himself by his pleadings, was the trial in 1752 of the noted James Drummond Macgregor for stealing and forcibly marrying an heiress. In the following year he went to London to attend an appeal, in which Mr. Charles York, the son of Lord Chancellor Hardwick, was retained. This led to an introduction to that eminent judge, who, as well as his son, honoured

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Mr. Rae with their friendship during their lives. But however multifarious and important were his professional labours, a fondness for polite literature engrossed his leisure moments, and occasionally displayed itself in several amusing essays, both in prose and verse, which were inserted in magazines, and other periodical publications in Scotland and England. These fugitive and anonymous pieces are favourable specimens of his juvenile talents as a man of letters, and warrant an expectation of more substantial productions from his maturer age.

In the summer of 1753 he went to Paris, and, after visiting several parts of France, proceeded on a tour through part of Germany and the Low Countries. He returned to Scotland in the following winter, and prosecuted his profession with increasing reputation and emolument. In 1761, he married Miss Margaret Stuart, the youngest daughter of the late John Stuart, Esq. of Blairhall, a lady of great beauty and accomplishments. She was allied to several noble families; by her father she was grand-niece to the first Earl of Bute, and niece, by her mother, Lady Anne Stuart, to James late Earl of Moray. Lieutenant-General James Stuart, the conqueror of Ceylon, and Commander in Chief of the Bombay army at the capture of Seringapatam, is her brother. Some years after Mr. Rae's marriage, his brother uterine, Lieutenant-General Douglas, married an elder sister of Mrs. Rae; an event which drew still closer the ties of relation and friendship between them.

Among other important causes in which Mr. Rae appeared,

appeared, he was engaged as leading counsel by Mr. Douglas, now Lord Douglas, in the memorable competition between him and the Duke of Hamilton for the rich inheritance of the Duke of Douglas. From its commencement to the period of its conclusion in 1767, he participated in all the laborious inquiries, and in composing the voluminous papers for Mr. Douglas in that momentous question. Such was the opinion which the Supreme Court entertained of our young barrister's talents and integrity, that they appointed him to be one of the Commissioners for superintending the proofs taken in France respecting Mr. Douglas's birth, and other collateral points of the case. In the execution of this duty, he had for his colleague the late Lord Monboddo, then Mr. Burnet. They went to Paris in September 1764, and returned about the middle of the ensuing winter.

But in the midst of this tide of business, Mr. Rae, now blessed with a blooming offspring, was destined to have his fortitude put to the severest test, by one of those afflictions which, although certain to occur early or late, cannot be contemplated, even at a distance, without anguish. In the spring of 1770, he went to London, to attend as counsel in several appeals before the House of Lords, and was accompanied by his wife, on a visit to her relations in England. After passing some months in the metropolis, they made an excursion to Bath, intending to proceed from thence to Scotland. But in the course of the journey Mrs. Rae was suddenly taken ill at Bristol, and conveyed with much difficulty to Worcester, where

where she was attended by the most eminent of the faculty. Medical aid, however, was unavailing; she expired on the 7th of June, in the prime of her days, being only twenty-nine years of age. With the mildest disposition, and an agreeable form, this lady united the most engaging manners. Beloved as she was by a numerous circle of relations and acquaintances, her premature death incited the deepest sorrow. We need not endeavour to delineate the loss and the grief of Mr. Rae; in him the husband and the father wept.

Her remains were interred in a vault within the cathedral church of Worcester, where Mr. Rae caused a magnificent marble monument to be erected to her memory in 1772, by an eminent artist of London: The inscription on it may be seen in Dr. Nash's History of Worcestershire; and also in Mr. Green's History of Worcester; and in the last work is given an elegant engraving of the monument. The inscription is modest, tender, and impressive; and such as an intelligent man and an affectionate husband would inscribe on the tablet which marks the tomb of her who, even in the grave, possesses his heart.

Thus bereaved of an endearing companion, Mr. Rae was called from a continued indulgence of grief to the duties of a parent. To rear and educate with assiduity and care his four children, still in early infancy, was not merely a debt he owed to his offspring, but a source of consolation to himself, and a tribute of esteem to their departed mother; while their presence kept alive a melancholy, yet pleasing recollection

tion of the days that were past. His exertions have been amply recompensed; and he has now lived to see three of these children arrive at maturity, and answering his fondest expectation.

From this period he paid a close attention to his professional occupations, as the best means of weaning him from mournful and too intense reflection. With this view he for many years spent the spring months in London, where he had constant employment in appeal cases before the House of Lords, or in election cases and private bills before the Commons. So extensive a practice necessarily gained the acquaintance of the heads of the law in England, and an intimacy with the most eminent pleaders at the English bar. In particular he was honoured with the friendship of that distinguished judge, the Earl of Mansfield, Lord Chancellor Thurlow, Lord Ashburton, Lord Loughborough, Lord Chief Baron Macdonald, Sir Fletcher Norton, Sir Pepper Arden, Mr. Lee, Mr. Maddox, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Bearcroft, &c. persons with whom it was impossible to associate without reaping intellectual improvement and temporal benefits. Mr. Rae also mingled, at times in the gay, polite, and convivial circles of the capital, where he was enabled to indulge his natural vivacity, and where he was ever esteemed a welcome visitor.

Some of the gentlemen we have already mentioned, advised, and even pressed him to leave the Scotch for the English bar. The abundant success, however, which he had enjoyed in his own country, combined

bined with family connections and other private motives, induced him to decline the measure. It certainly afforded more ample scope for ambition: but the candidate for fame ought, perhaps, to commence his career in the courts of Westminster at an earlier period of life than what Mr. Rae had then attained.

From the commencement of his practice at the bar, he attracted and enjoyed the favour of the late Lord President Dundas, a person of no ordinary penetration, and who, during life, continued undiminished his esteem for him. His Lordship's brother, Mr. Secretary Dundas, in like manner honoured him with his intimate friendship, which, instead of being abated, has been strengthened by time; and to his talents and discernment as a Minister, Mr. Rae, in his present official capacity, has been deeply indebted. Both these brothers were men of acknowledged natural and acquired talents, and consummate legal knowledge. Mr. Rae himself possesses great amenity of manners; and where is the man who is unacquainted with the social qualifications of Harry Dundas, or who does not wish to partake with him in his occasional festivity?

With literary men of eminence, and of all parties, Mr. Rae maintained as frequent an intercourse as his avocations would admit. With Dr. Robertson and Dr. Adam Smith, names immortalized by their works, he was in habits of familiarity. To Mr. Hume, while writing his History, he furnished some important hints respecting the authenticity of the *Icon Basilike*, the putative production of Charles I. as to which

which that able writer entertained some doubts, which these communications removed. Mr. Tytler, the vindicator of Queen Mary, was his particular friend, and favoured him with a perusal of his work, while in manuscript. He was also an intimate acquaintance of Smollet, and, when in London, a frequent guest at those singular and periodical entertainments which the Doctor, while he resided at Chelsea, gave to successive groups of authors, most of whom subsisted by writing libels on their host. When the Doctor was last at Edinburgh, he was present with Mr. Rae and others, at a numerous jovial meeting, of which we have a most humorous description in Humphrey Clinker. The much respected, learned and ingenious Lord Monboddo was through life strongly attached to Mr. Rae, and on numberless occasions applauded in court his reasonings while at the bar, and his opinions on the bench. A few weeks before his death, that venerable philosopher paid Mr. Rae a visit (the last he ever made), and expressed his final adieu.

During all this period Mr. Rae's practice was as extensive before the supreme courts as it could be, although he never held the offices of Lord Advocate, or Solicitor-General, who alone enjoy, in the Scottish courts, the rank and functions of King's Counsel. When the celebrated orator, Mr. Lockhart, declined, on account of his advanced age, the practice of the Court of Exchequer, Mr. Rae became the first or leading Counsel on the side of the subject, and maintained that reputable station for
many

many years, until his time was totally engrossed by the other courts. He had likewise very great employment before the Court of Justiciary, and was particularly eminent for charging juries, a task for which he was eminently adapted, both by his elocutionary powers, and retentive memory. Many of his speeches, detailed in the periodical productions of the day, are remarkable for nice discrimination, logical precision, and forcible argument.

But the period was now arrived when this gentleman was to receive the reward of thirty years application at the bar, and to exercise his abilities in a higher station. On the death of Lord Auchinleck,* in August 1782, his Majesty, through the medium of the Earl of Shelburne, then Secretary of State, nominated Mr. Rae to be his Lordship's successor. As, however, the commission arrived during the time of vacation, it could not be presented in court; but in the interval, Mr. Rae, though not legally disabled from giving opinions in cases, or otherwise acting as counsel, declined any employment of that nature, from a delicate regard that no opinion, or other concern, might interfere with his future sentiments as a judge. On the meeting of the Court in November, he took his seat on the bench, under the title of Lord Eskgrove, a title derived from a pleasant villa, his usual place of residence, in the vicinity of Edinburgh.

* The worthy father of James Boswell, Esq. of facetious memory, the voluminous biographer of Johnson.

Nor was this seat in the supreme civil court of Scotland intended to be the only recompence of his merit and services. Upon the first vacancy which occurred on the bench of the High Court of Justiciary, by the death of Lord Kennett, in 1785, his Majesty's commission, appointing Lord Eskgrove to succeed him, was sent from London by express. In consequence of this second mark of royal favour, his Lordship was sworn into that important office, and took his seat accordingly: after which he accompanied Sir Thomas Miller, then Lord-Justice-Clerk, as his colleague on the northern circuit. Since that time he has continued to fulfil his duty, as a civil and criminal judge, both while residentiary in Edinburgh, and on the half-yearly circuits, without any intermission, excepting the accidental indisposition of a day or two. In the summer 1795 he was subjected to a temporary lameness, by an unfortunate fall, which confined him upwards of a twelvemonth, but from the effects of which he completely, though slowly, recovered. While in this painful situation, he was conveyed to Perth in the autumn of that year, it being his turn to go on the northern circuit. There he presided on the trial of Palmer, a Unitarian clergyman, for a seditious publication. The Jury found Palmer guilty; and he was accordingly sentenced to transportation for seven years to Botany Bay!!!—This sentence his Lordship may be assured will add no lustre to his memory. Whether he continues to approve of the conduct of the Scottish

Courts on this and similar occasions, we have not heard.

Among the nobility and great landholders of Scotland a practice had been generally prevalent of creating, what are styled in that country, nominal life-rent rights of superiority, which they bestowed on their friends and dependants for the purpose of increasing their own influence in county elections. This practice had become the subject of general complaint among the real independent voters; and the Court of Session, when the different questions were brought before them, gave them such relief as the act of parliament, prohibiting the undue multiplication of voters by the creation of fictitious qualifications, could warrant. Whether the freeholders were dissatisfied with some of these determinations, or felt prosecutions attended with a heavy expence, and wished to crush their germe in embryo; or, finally, were led by the innovating temper of the times, we presume not to decide; but a plan was formed of abolishing all qualifications whatever, founded on rights of superiority; and to further the project a meeting of delegates from each county was convened at Edinburgh in 1792.

Lord Eskgrove, from the first surmise of this intended reformation, was hostile to it, and still more on account of its unseasonableness. The Assembly he regarded as illegal, and particularly dangerous as a precedent, during the political discussions and agitated state of the times. He therefore deemed it his duty,

duty, as a Judge, and guardian of the public peace, not merely to reprobate the scheme when under discussion, but to communicate his sentiments to all the freeholders in Scotland, and warn them of the alarming tendency of the measure. An ardent lover of the principles of the British Constitution and present establishment, under which this land enjoys a degree of tranquil liberty and happiness unknown in other countries, he wished to secure its permanency by checking alteration, brought forward under the pretext of improving what he himself considered to be already most excellent.

Influenced by these motives, he published a pamphlet, under the title of *A Letter from an old Freeholder to his Fellow Freeholders*, refuting the principles of the bill approved by the meeting of the delegates, for regulating the county election laws in Scotland; and proving it to be a total subversion of the ancient law, which the supporters of the measure said they meant only to restore. This little production is written in that conciliating style which suited the gravity of a Judge, yet with that strong and earnest argumentation which became his sincerity. He exposed in strong colours the illegality of such conventions, and the fatal effects that might result from tolerating such a mode of collecting the sense of the community, or part of it, on any great constitutional question. Parliament alone he held to be the only lawful representative assembly of the people, vested with competent authority to deliberate on measures conducive to the public good, and apply

a remedy, when necessary, for any possible defects in the Constitution.

After giving a concise narrative of the proceedings of the general meeting of delegates, he adverted to the extraordinary nature of the bill, as not being framed merely for the purpose of correcting abuses committed under the existing laws of election, and restoring these to their true import, but at once to make a fundamental change in the constitution itself. By this bill all qualifications of freeholders, founded on rights of superiority of any kind, were to be abolished; the qualification of a voter on the valued rent lowered from 400*l.* Scots to 100*l.* Scots; and superiors compelled to dispoise their superiorities to their vassals at a fixed price. In investigating whether their mode of proceeding by a general convention be authorized by the law of the land, his Lordship cites the act of 1587, appointing county meetings for the election of Commissioners to Parliament, and maintains that the clause, declaring these assemblies to be lawful, virtually implies that they would otherwise have been illegal. As an apposite instance, sanctioning this opinion, he mentions the annual convention of Royal Burghs of Scotland, which required the guarantee of various acts of Parliament, regulating the mode of their proceedings, and nature of the subjects on which the members were to deliberate. Some, perhaps, will regard this reasoning as fastidious; and yet, guided by a strict adherence to the letter of the law, we are constrained to own that his arguments throughout the work are, at least, juridically conclusive.

sive. We cannot follow his Lordship farther. In point of composition, the pamphlet is satisfactory evidence of his literary acquirements. Although the author was at the time, and still is, generally unknown, it had a great effect; and the meditated reform in the rights of election soon afterwards dropped.

The great abilities which Lord Eskgrove had displayed on the bench were deemed worthy of still higher honours. Lord-Justice-Clerk Braxfield had held, for several years, the presidency of the Court of Justiciary. During the last two years of his life, a severe illness prevented him from attending the business of the Court; and in his absence Lord Eskgrove was called on, by the rest of his brethren, to fill the presidential chair. When Lord-Justice-Clerk's disorder precluded all prospect of a recovery, that might enable him to resume the important functions of his station, he resigned his office, which his Majesty was pleased to confer on Lord Eskgrove.

Thus has this learned gentleman, solely by his own merit, attained the pre-eminent station of supreme or first criminal magistrate of his country, and become *ex officio* an officer of state and his Majesty's minister in matters regarding offences committed within Scotland. His conduct, during the short space he has held the chair, has fulfilled the expectations of his fellow citizens, and his sovereign. Although now above seventy years of age, he still retains a constitution naturally good. Of a gay and social disposition, he is not inimical to conviviality
yet

yet particularly temperate. We cannot, indeed, adduce a more striking instance of his bodily strength, invigorated doubtless by the greater powers of his mind, than what occurred in a succession of long and involved trials, respecting several daring forgeries on the Bank of England and many of the Scottish Banks. They occupied some weeks without intermission: yet his Lordship discharged his duty with laudable perseverance; and although the Court-house was extremely crowded, presided during the whole time, and at the close of each trial summed up the evidence to the Juries at great length, and with his customary judgment and perspicuity. Notwithstanding this exertion, he was apparently less fatigued than many of the indifferent spectators.

His affection for his lady, and a hallowed respect for her memory, have induced his Lordship to continue a widower. If such a loss be reparable, he has ample consolation in the filial endearments of his family. Of four children three are still living. His only daughter is highly accomplished: his eldest son is a lieutenant colonel in the army, and his second a young barrister of very promising abilities.

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